Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-92-177
Friday
11 September 1992

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-92-177 *11 September 1992*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Quadripartite Commission Resumes Work in Moldova 2
Meets With Local Residents *[Bucharest Radio]* 2
CSCE Ready to Send Representatives *[Bucharest Radio]* 2
Shokhin Attends EC Hearings on CIS Economy *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan To Improve Germans' Rights *[ITAR-TASS]* 3

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

PRAVDA Sees Pattern in Presidents' Ousters *[9 Sep]* 4
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 11 Sep 4

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Reaction to, Reports on Delay of Japan Visit 6
Yeltsin Blames Economic Aid Position *[Tokyo KYODO]* 6
Filatov on 'Hysterical' Situation *[Moscow TV]* 6
Delay Could Affect Debt Talks *[INTERFAX]* 7
Oil, Gas Accords 'Not Ready' *[INTERFAX]* 7
Kozyrev Resignation Rumors 'Exaggerated' *[Moscow TV]* 7
Rally Speakers See Delay as 'Victory' *[INTERFAX]* 7
Hokkaido Governor Criticizes Japanese Policy *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Sakhalin Governor Criticizes Kozyrev, Kunadze *[Tokyo KYODO]* 8
U.S. Joins Japan in 'Major' Air Force Exercises *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 9 Sep]* 8
Yeltsin Speaks With Bush on Relations, Reforms *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Government Statement Confirms Visit to China *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Economics Minister Stresses Interest in Taiwan *[Moscow International]* 8
Yeltsin To Turn Over Information on KAL Incident *[Tokyo KYODO]* 9
Government Concerned Over South African Events *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Kozyrev, PLO's 'Abbas Discuss Palestinians *[Moscow International]* 9
Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Meets With Kozyrev *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Cuban Troop Withdrawal Talks Open Second Round *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Energy Official on Cuban Nuclear Plant *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Political Assessment of Fidel Castro *[IZVESTIYA 4 Sep]* 11
Talks With Ukraine Delegation Held in Secret *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Gaydar, Ukrainian Counterpart Meet *[INTERFAX]* 13
Aven Unhappy With Stand on USSR Debt *[INTERFAX]* 13
Moscow, Ukraine Agree on Black Sea Fleet Symbols *[INTERFAX]* 14
Two of Six Draft Agreements Signed With Estonia *[BALTFAX]* 14
Presidential Decree Appoints Envoy to Croatia *[INTERFAX]* 14
UK Inspector on Inaugural 'Open Skies' Flight *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 9 Sep]* 14

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Affairs

Regional Leaders Meet in Cheboksary 16
Khasbulatov Previews Talks *[Moscow TV]* 16

Yeltsin Addresses Leaders *[Radio Rossii]* 16
Yeltsin on Japan, ROK Visits *[Radio Rossii]* 21
Gaydar Addresses Leaders *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Gaydar on Local Economic Restructuring *[INTERFAX]* 22
Volskiy Interviewed on Politics, Economy *[PRAVDA 9 Sep]* 22

Economic Issues

Government Examines Aspects of Energy Program *[Moscow TV]* 27
To Free Oil Prices in 1993 *[INTERFAX]* 27
Deputy Minister on Price Hikes *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Union Official on Liberalizing Prices *[INTERFAX]* 28
Gazprom Cash Flow Hit by Nonpayments, Taxation *[Russian TV]* 28
Agreement on Troop Redeployment to Smolensk *[Radio Rossii]* 28
Commanders Authorized To Discharge Employees *[Moscow Radio]* 29
Government Endorses 1993 State Defense Order *[ITAR-TASS]* 29
Military Production Drastically Reduced *[INTERFAX]* 29
Government Aid For Military Conversion Needed *[ITAR-TASS]* 29

Regional Affairs

Chechens Oppose Russian Troops in Border Area *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 9 Sep]* 29
MVD Forces Detain Returning Chechen Volunteers *[Radio Rossii]* 30
Moscow Mayor Assesses Winter Food Supplies *[IZVESTIYA 3 Sep]* 30
N. Ossetian Official on Unification With South *[ITAR-TASS]* 31
Justice Minister on Karachay-Cherkess Situation *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 4 Sep]* 31
Kaliningrad Drought Forces State of Emergency *[ITAR-TASS]* 33

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Defense Ministry Seeks Fleet Chief's Resignation *[INTERFAX]* 34
Talks Held on Nuclear Weapons in Ukraine *[ITAR-TASS]* 34
Defense Enterprise Joins in Arms Reduction *[Kiev Radio]* 34
Zlenko on Preparing for Next UN General Assembly *[INTERFAX]* 34
New Corporation for Economic Ties Development *[Kiev TV]* 35
Deal With France on Power Generation System [Kiev TV] 35

National Affairs

Government Orders Reduction in Kiev Dairy Prices *[Kiev International]* 35
Rukh Issues Statement on Trade Unions' Strike *[Kiev TV]* 35
Criminal World Said Pressuring Strikers *[INTERFAX]* 35
Defense Enterprises To Increase Consumer Goods *[Kiev International]* 35
Military Prosecutor Concerned at Rise in Desertion *[PRAVDA 8 Sep]* 36
Supreme Council Meets on Upcoming Session *[Kiev Radio]* 36
Tatars Advised Not To Take Ukraine Citizenship *[INTERFAX]* 36
Dniester Ukrainians Appeal for More Assistance *[Kiev International]* 36
Tension Seen Building in Republic *[DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA 3 Sep]* 36
New School To Train Interrogators, Investigators *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 3 Sep]* 38

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Observers Expect 'Major Shifts' in Government *[INTERFAX]* 39
Security Council Wants Speedy Troop Withdrawal *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
'Inordinately' High Prices Create Beef Surplus *[Radio Rossii]* 39
Shushkevich Greets North American Convention *[INTERFAX]* 39

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

IAEA Membership Bid Spurs Information Release *[Alma-Ata Radio]* 40
Nazarbayev in Vanguard of 'Unified' State Idea *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 9 Sep]* 40
Ceremony Marks Opening of Road to Tehran *[Tehran IRNA]* 40

Kyrgyzstan

Armed Neutrality Linchpin of Defense Doctrine *[INTERFAX]* 41
Opposition Group Outlines New Draft Constitution *[INTERFAX]* 41
Leaders Agree on Slavic University in Bishkek *[INTERFAX]* 41

Tajikistan

New Leader Affirms Democratic Reform Course *[INTERFAX]* 42
Leninabad Requests UN Fact Finding Mission *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
Clashes Reported in Dushanbe, Kurgan-Tyube *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
Kulyab Leader Cited on Situation *[IZVESTIYA 9 Sep]* 43
National Security Committee on Dushanbe Situation *[INTERFAX]* 44
Government Chooses Tricolor as National Flag *[Tehran IRNA]* 44

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Delegate Says Rome Talks 'Came to Nothing' *[SNARK]* 46
Official Rejects Preliminary Truce Terms *[INTERFAX]* 46
'Almost All' Su-25's Reportedly 'Lost' *[SNARK]* 46
Border Shelling, Fighting in Karabakh Reported *[Yerevan Radio]* 46
President Unites Forces in Fight Against Crime *[INTERFAX]* 47
Diplomatic Ties Established With Kazakhstan *[Yerevan Radio]* 47
13 Kilograms of Cocaine, Nerve Gas Confiscated *[INTERFAX]* 47

Azerbaijan

Republic Will Not Disrupt Ties With CIS *[TURAN]* 47
Foreign Minister Discusses Armenian Relations *[Ankara ANATOLIA]* 47
Army To Suspend Operations if Units Withdraw *[TURAN]* 48
Moscow Representative on Russia's Karabakh Role *[IZVESTIYA 5 Sep]* 48
Ministry Decries NKR Chief's Visit to Yerevan *[TURAN]* 50
Nakhichevan Leader Demands Villages From Armenia *[Istanbul TURKIYE 3 Sep]* 50
President Forms Council for Ethnic Relations *[INTERFAX]* 50
Envoy to Italy Arrested During Thatcher Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 50
Government Sets New Prices for Crude Oil *[Radio Rossii]* 51

Georgia

Tripartite Talks on Abkhazia Resume *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 10 Sep]* 51
Control Group Makes Headway *[ITAR-TASS]* 52
Sigua Views Sukhumi Agreements *[INTERFAX]* 52
State Council Address to Abkhazians *[INTERFAX]* 52
Russian Paratroopers Moved to Fighting Zone *[INTERFAX]* 53
Railway Bridge Blown Up; Hostages Taken *[INTERFAX]* 53
Gamsakhurdia Supporters Release Last Hostage *[ITAR-TASS]* 53
Kavsadze Outlines Situation to CSCE, Others *[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA 29 Aug]* 53
Shevardnadze Receives German Delegation *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
New Vice Premier Named; Defense Offical Resigns *[NOVAYA GAZETA 17 Aug]* 54

BALTIC STATES

Latvia

Grain Harvesting Complete; Yield Drops 50% *[Riga Radio]* 56
Godmanis, Businessmen Discuss Hard Currency Issue *[INTERFAX]* 56
Official Comments on Banking Policy *[Tallinn Radio]* 56

Lithuania

Landsbergis Gives Briefing on Russian Talks *[Vilnius Radio]* 56
Landsbergis: 15 Minute Yeltsin Talks 'Inadequate' *[INTERFAX]* 57
Abisala on Priorities; Rules Out 2d Term *[ELTA NEWS BULLETIN]* 57
Proposal Made To End Live Parliament Broadcasts *[BALTFAX]* 58
Government Approves List of 'State Secrets' *[ELTA NEWS BULLETIN]* 58

Government To Raise Oil Prices; Sets Gas Price Curbs

The Russian Government, in a session chaired by President Yeltsin, yesterday approved the draft plan for Russia's energy program, according to Moscow television. Although the government did not give any specific deadlines for raising prices, "it was confirmed that prices will rise by 20-30 percent before the end of the year, while during 1993 they will be freed." INTERFAX reports that "the Cabinet considered the proposal on doubling prices on oil and oil products this year" but does not state that it actually approved the proposal. "Prices on gas and electric energy, and on centralized heat supplies will remain under state control." According to Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who was quoted by ITAR-TASS, fuel prices will grow "in the near future" and a tonne of oil will cost "4,000-5,000 rubles." He noted that these prices will still be lower than world prices. Commenting on the government's decision, the chairman of the Council of the Federation of Independent Russian Unions, Igor Klochkov, warned that "the Federation believes that higher prices on oil will paralyze the population's purchasing power and bring industrial enterprises to a halt." Moscow television reports that Agriculture Minister Viktor Khlystun said the measures "will require budget subsidies to be tripled, in particular for livestock produce."

Ukraine Demands Resignation of Black Sea Fleet Chief

The "commission to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet on defense and security issues and the Ukrainian Defense Ministry have demanded the immediate resignation of Admiral Igor Kasatonov from the position of commander of the Black Sea fleet," INTERFAX reports. The statement outlining the demand "contained harsh criticism not only of the Black Sea fleet commander, but of the Russian Defense Ministry for its activity regarding the Sevastopol naval officer training academy and the Black Sea military-naval academy in Sevastopol."

Russian Paratroopers Transfer to Abkhazia Fighting Zone

"A Russian airborne unit and more than 10 armored vehicles and mine-clearing units" have moved into the "area of combat operations in the Sukhumi direction" to act as "a disengaging force" during the removal of Georgian and Abkhazian armed formations, reports INTERFAX.

Observers Expect Major Shifts in Belarusian Government

Local observers in Belarus "anticipate major shifts in the top structures of the republic's offices of executive power in the near future," according to INTERFAX. In addition to "numerous charges of bribe-taking and collusion with corrupt elements in the republic" by government employees, "nearly 100 general and commissioned officers of the Belarusian armed forces are suspected of corruption, including deputy defense minister Colonel General Anatoliy Kostenko who was earlier holding the post of the CinC [commander in chief], Belarusian Military District." Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich "regards the corrupted officials as traitors of the state interests and he intends to apply to them most strict punishment."

Quadripartite Commission Resumes Work in Moldova

Meets With Local Residents

AU1009091492 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 0400 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Report by Gabriel Ionescu in Chisinau]

[Text] The mechanism designed to peacefully settle the conflict in the eastern part of Moldova, created as a result of the agreements signed in Chisinau by the ministers of foreign affairs of the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Romania, and Ukraine, is once again at work. Yesterday the four-way joint commission went to Dubossary to talk to residents of that town. Mr. Igor Ciobanu, a member of the Unified Control Commission and representative of Moldova's Foreign Ministry in the joint commission, told me last night that the four-way mechanism is now emphasizing talks with people who live on the left bank of the Dniester and with local administration representatives, aiming to strengthen confidence between the former opponents.

Six representatives of the Joint Control Commission will go today to Cocieri and Corjova, where they hope to find new ways to eliminate tensions that still exist there. According to the co-chairman of that commission, Nicolae Chirtoaca, the results of today's talks will serve as a basis in adjusting the actions of the peacekeeping forces and in improving the methods used to stabilize the situation.

The control commission met yesterday in Tighina with the members of the CSCE special delegation, which is on a fact-finding mission in the Republic of Moldova. The guests were briefed on the measures for peaceful settlement of the conflict and agreed that CSCE observers ought to be permanently deployed to the conflict zone.

During yesterday's meeting of the Joint Control Commission, local authority representatives reassured commission members that trains will be allowed to freely enter and leave Tighina. It has also been announced that separatist leader Igor Smirnov has lifted the state of emergency in the security zone in the eastern part of Moldova.

CSCE Ready to Send Representatives

AU1009144492 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1000 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Report by Gabriel Ionescu in Chisinau]

[Text] The four-way joint control commission that was set up according to the agreement signed in Chisinau by the foreign ministers of the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Romania, and Ukraine is proceeding with its activities in Chisinau. We have learned from the Romanian members of the commission that a plan of action has been designed. Under the plan, commission members will have several meetings with battalions belonging to the peace-keeping forces deployed in the conflict zone by the parties to the Moscow convention. Aiming to further help implement the political solution of the conflict in the eastern rayons of Moldova, the commission members plan to travel to various localities in order to be able to talk to representatives of the local authorities.

The Unified Control Commission, set up in accordance with the the Moscow convention, will also continue to its efforts to further stabilize the situation in the Dniester area by monitoring the cease-fire and disengagement accords.

Today Moldovan President Mircea Snegur received the members of the CSCE fact-finding mission. The personal representative of the president of the CSCE High Commissioners' Committee, the Polish citizen Adam Daniel Rotfeld told Snegur that the head of the CSCE has expressed his interest in direct CSCE involvement in improving the situation in the eastern part of Moldova and has therefore suggested that CSCE representatives could be sent to that zone whenever it is deemed necessary. The results of their mission will be reported to the Prague assembly of the CSCE. The CSCE delegation will also have talks later in Bucharest, Kiev, and Moscow, Rotfeld added, during which they will present another report proposing ways to solve the conflict in eastern Moldova.

Shokhin Attends EC Hearings on CIS Economy

LD1009200192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1451 GMT 10 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shashkov]

[Text] Brussels September 10 TASS—Two-day hearings on "economic and political problems of the CIS countries" opened in the European Parliament on Thursday. The hearings were organised by leading parliamentary commissions to enable the deputies to familiarise themselves more profoundly with processes in republics of the former Soviet Union and for a quest of more effective forms of aid to newly independent states.

Russian Deputy Premier Aleksandr Shokhin spoke at the first meeting to sum up the pace of the economic reform and plans of the Russian Government. He said that in just nine months Russia has covered considerable part of the road toward implementing reformer concepts which were merely subjects of academic and political debates over many years. Now the country has embarked on the creation of the market economy.

Shokhin said certain results have been achieved in financial stabilisation and the freeing of prices. The government sets itself a task to limit the inflation-related deficit of the budget to five per cent of the gross national product and to keep the inflation rate below ten percent. Meanwhile, the macroeconomic policy is not the only objective of the reform. Shokhin named among the priorities privatisation and turning of state enterprises into joint stock companies, restructuring and demilitarisation of the economy, the increase of the sale of Russian products in the world market and attracting foreign investment to the country's economy.

Support of the world community is extremely important for the achievement of goals set, Shokhin noted. But the scopes and characteristics of the Russian economy are unique and incompatible with other countries making reforms. Therefore standard recommendations which yielded quite good results in other countries can hardly be applied to Russia.

Shokhin said that relations with the European Community, one of the geopolitical centres of the new world structure, are of special importance for Russia. Close cooperation with the EC will help Russia's integration into the European economic expanse and the world economy. On the other hand, the EC experience, if viewed correctly, can serve as a guide for shaping mechanisms of interaction within the CIS. Shokhin believes Russian reforms created the necessary conditions for the deepening of cooperation with the European Community. In this connection, it is important to conclude an agreement on cooperation and partnership between the EC and Russia that will put their relations on a new level.

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan To Improve Germans' Rights

LD1009195392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1420 GMT 10 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Korinenko]

[Text] Bonn September 10 TASS—Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan plan to sign with Germany an agreement on the equal status of more than a million Germans now living on the territory of these two republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States. This is one of the results of the 6-day visit paid to Central Asia by State Secretary of the FRG Interior Ministry and Commissioner for Resettlers Horst Waffenschmidt.

According to Waffenschmidt, this agreement will lay a legal foundation for the further development of the German-speaking population, for school tuition in the German language, will envisage the organisation of radio and TV broadcasting in German and the setting up of private German enterprises.

The agreement with Kazakhstan is to be signed during President Nursultan Nazarbayev's September visit to the FRG. Meeting Waffenschmidt, Nazarbayev also said he intended to address the congress of Kazakh Germans this October and to assume some commitments to improve the lot of the republic's German population.

A statement issued by the FRG Interior Ministry notes that a German Consultative Bureau for Economic Matters will open in the Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek even before the German Embassy. Concrete aspects of its work will be discussed by the German-Kyrgyz Intergovernmental Commission, formed this September.

PRAVDA Sees Pattern in Presidents' Ousters

PM1009150192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Sep 92 pp 1, 2

[Report by Viktor Trushkov: "Gamsakhurdia, Mutalibov, Nabiyev. Who Will Be Next?"]

[Text] The French have a saying: One incident is an accident, two incidents set a trend, and three make an established pattern. This came to mind when I heard the reports from Georgia and Tajikistan. In the Central Asian republic, the opposition forcibly removed from power ("in accordance with his own wishes"—if you are gullible) the lawfully elected President Rakhman Nabiyev, while in the Caucasian republic, Eduard Shevardnadze consented to run (unopposed) for speaker of parliament in order to legitimize the seizure of power that had already occurred. In spite of these events' outward dissimilarity, they are manifestations of the same phenomenon.

Their heroes are "fruits of the same kitchen garden." I was stunned when reading their biographies. Shevardnadze and Nabiyev are almost the same age (the Georgian is only two and one-half years older than the Tajik), they began their working lives at the same time in 1946, both went over to party work in 1961, and they were both elected to the CPSU Central Committee for the first time in 1976. They even made it to the top of their republics' pyramids of power simultaneously! In 1972 E. Shevardnadze became first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee, and the following year R. Nabiyev became chairman of Tajikistan's Council of Ministers.

Today, Shevardnadze and Nabiyev have proved to be principal players in the latest stage of the coup d'etat process in the former superpower. It comes down to replacing the former constitutional authorities in the CIS states by new, post-Belovezhskaya Forest authorities. Replacing them is illegal, but legitimation follows. In this change at the highest level, Nabiyev (despite all his political peculiarities) represents the Belovezhskaya Forest group of politicians and, however strange this will seem, Shevardnadze represents the post-Belovezhskaya Forest group.

The "Belovezhskaya Forest alumni" politicians methodically undermined the roots of the powerful Union oak, but dreamed, as people had done before, of treating themselves to its acorns. This applies equally to former CPSU Central Committee Politburo members, "ordinary" secretaries of republic party committees, and inveterate dissidents from the anticommunist mold. But even experienced tightrope walkers are not capable of keeping their balance for long.

The nearer the "old" border was, and the more assiduously our foreign neighbors looked into the kitchen garden over the plowed border zone, the more difficult it was to keep that balance and preserve the Belovezhaskaya Forest's chastity. So the process began, under the banner of nationalism. But the constitutional president, A. Mutalibov, was found to be insufficiently nationalist by the Azerbaijan "People's Front", and so they got rid of him. Z. Gamsakhurdia had a reputation for being disrespectful to the traditions of Georgian "democracy," and so they deposed him. Now R. Nabiyev's turn has come. Only he is not the last. People have already demanded M. Snegur's resignation, and it has been suggested that L. Ter-Petrosyan give way to more militant politicians... The list goes on.

The amazing wonders of this world! The Moldovan president, who called for war on Russia, is now complimenting the Russian president. L. Kravchuk and B. Yeltsin, on the point of scaring Europe with their mutual aggressiveness, are good-natured and nice to each other. At times it seems as if Armenia and Azerbaijan are at war apparently against the wills of their presidents. Somehow, things are not coming together, if we are to believe the high-level speeches...

Then it occurred to me: What we have before us are international... nationalists. Pretend nationalists, impostors. As a rule they easily find a common language. They lie to the people about their national interests in this "common language." But they proceed from completely different interests, interests that unite the potentates more with influential string-pullers abroad [vladatelnoye zakordonye] than with their own people.

Alas, interethnic conflicts are advantageous to the powers that be and to their homegrown and imported [zayemnyye] puppet masters in almost all the CIS states. First, they increase the current authorities' power, emphasize their sovereignty, and strengthen the centrifugal forces in yesterday's Union. Second, they help to redraw the map of the world, as the pull exerted from beyond the striped poles of the border is already turning out to be stronger than the magnet of the Kremlin and the single economic space promised in the Belovezhskaya Forest. Third, interethnic conflicts relegate all other problems to the margins, glorify each side's "leaders," and let the presidents' critics be perceived almost as national traitors. The conflicts also draw out those who have not finally chosen their standpoint and are attempting to adopt several at once.

As there are no longer less than than three incidents, then, if we are to believe the French, we can talk about an established pattern.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 11 Sep

LD1109050492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0453 GMT 11 Sep 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 11 ITAR-TASS—Newspapers highlight today the postponement of President Yeltsin's visit to Japan. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries several articles on this subject under the headline "Passions Over Japanese Problem Continue

to Shake Russia." The newspaper calls attention to the fact that the Russian Security Council met the day before it was decided to postpone the visit. It points out that only five of its members—Yeltsin, Rutskoy, Gaydar, Filatov and Skokov—have the right to vote. Vice President Rutskoy did not attend the meeting. "If one disregards the fact that not the best way was chosen to postpone the visit, one should admit at the same time that the Russian president took the correct, and probably the only correct step." The newspaper writes that in the current situation the struggle of the parliamentary opposition for the Kuril Islands "is being inevitably transformed into the struggle for the resignation of Minister Kozyrev, who could not handle properly Yeltsin's refusal."

PRAVDA frontpages the photo of a picket, held on Thursday outside the Japanese Embassy in Moscow under the slogan "the Kuril Islands are Russian land."

PRAVDA carries a selection of comments on the decision taken by the Russian president, as well its own article under the heading "Situation as Viewed From Editorial Office." The title of the article is "Emergency Situation." Its author, Yuriy Glukhov, writes: "Of course, Boris Yeltsin will not be able to avoid gossip, attacks and accusations that he yielded to the demands of 'national-patriots'. I believe, however, that most Russians have regarded the postponement of the visit as a correct step and a manifestation of common sense."

Newspapers publish numerous articles dealing with the session of the Russian Parliament that opens on September 22. KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA points out that parliamentary committees and commissions submitted for the consideration of the session 266 draft laws and 50 draft resolutions. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA mentions the demand of part of the legislators that speaker of the parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov should resign. The newspaper believes, however, that "the parliamentary opposition will not attack the speaker so far."

The press continues to highlight the situation in the hotbeds of tension on the territory of the former USSR. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes that "hunger and poverty will hit both Georgians and Abkhazians, if confrontation between them continues.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA reports from Tajikistan, that after a week of fighting in the south of the republic large-scale combat operations were replaced by occasional bursts of submachine-gun fire. In the opinion of the newspaper, the city of Kulyab, in the south of Tajikistan, is a destabilising factor. CIS frontier guard troops, which are being dispatched to ensure a better protection of the Tajik-Afghan border, will hardly be able to stabilise the situation. According to the republican authorities, the main flow of armaments is coming to Tajikistan not from Afghanistan, but from Russia, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA writes.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reports that Aleksiy II, patriarch of Moscow and all Russia, sent a letter to the Russian parliament. He appealed to legislators to open the country's armed forces for representatives of all confessions and to guarantee servicemen their constitutional rights and freedoms.

Newspapers report that the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar went down at the regular auction, held at the Moscow currency exchange on Thursday. Now its value is equivalent to 203 roubles—down by 4.9 roubles as against the previous figure.

Reaction to, Reports on Delay of Japan Visit

Yeltsin Blames Economic Aid Position

OW1009133292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1249 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, Sept. 10 KYODO—President Boris Yeltsin on Thursday [10 September] cited Japan's stance on economic assistance to Russia as one of the reasons for his decision to postpone his scheduled visit to Japan, Russian sources said.

Yeltsin told a cabinet meeting that one of the reasons he decided to put off the September 13-16 trip was the unlikelihood of Tokyo and Moscow signing an agreement pledging loans for Russia's natural gas development projects, the sources said.

Japan announced last October that it would provide 1.8 billion dollars in trade guarantees for Japanese exports and investment in the then Soviet Union.

Of that amount, 700 million dollars was in trade insurance for Japanese exporters of equipment for development of Russian natural gas and oil deposits.

Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe indicated during his trip to Moscow earlier this month that Japan would agree to some economic aid packages for Moscow when Yeltsin visited Japan.

He said he would like to see implementation of Japan's promise to provide 100 million dollars from the Export-Import Bank of Japan in emergency humanitarian aid, and the government's pledge of 700 million dollars in trade insurance for Russia's natural gas and oil development projects.

Meanwhile, a cabinet minister who attended Wednesday's meeting of Russia's top decision-making body, the Security Council, indicated that Yeltsin had made the decision to put off the trip before he attended the council meeting.

The minister, speaking on condition of anonymity, told KYODO NEWS SERVICE that the majority of those at the meeting advised Yeltsin to postpone the trip but the president himself had made the decision, not the council.

He said the members argued that "a hysterical anti-Russian campaign" was developing in Japan and that the president's safety during the visit could not be ensured.

They also cited Russia's domestic and economic problems and the poor prospect of signing documents pledging assistance to Russia, including the loan agreement on natural gas development projects, the minister said.

Yeltsin telephoned Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa late Tuesday night to inform him of his decision to postpone the visit.

Meanwhile, Sakhalin Governor Valentin Fedorov on Thursday welcomed Yeltsin's decision to postpone the trip, saying it is the "right choice."

He said if the president visited Japan now, the territorial dispute would become the focal issue but that it is "impossible to solve the issue" given the current situation in Russia.

Fedorov's jurisdiction covers the four disputed islands—Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan and the Habomais group of islets—which the former Soviet Union seized at the end of World War II.

Filatov on 'Hysterical' Situation

LD1009181192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Report on interview with Sergey Filatov, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet by V. Lenskiy; place, date not given; from the "Novosti" newscast—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] There have been considerably more foreign than domestic commentaries on the postponement of the visit to Japan. Officials are not very willing to meet with journalists, but our correspondent nevertheless managed to obtain a meeting with Sergey Filatov, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation.

[Filatov] "The situation that has arisen in Japan itself, in some ways rather hysterical with regard to the question of the islands, created a very tense situation."

[Lenskiy] In Sergey Filatov's opinion, this makes it impossible to find a constructive solution to the problem of the Kuril Islands at the top level. The deputy chairman of the Russian parliament believes that the Japanese leadership is responsible for the creation of such a nervous atmosphere.

[Filatov] "Evidently, the leaders in charge in Japan most likely wanted to go down in history, and at some point their sense of reason, so to speak, let them down. They wanted too much without taking into account the real situation in the world and in our countries."

[Lenskiy] Speaking of the internal reasons for the postponement of the visit, Sergey Filatov noted:

[Filatov] "It is September and there is the start of the session, the preparations for privatization, when privatization checks will start to be issued; naturally, there is the program of economic reforms that now must be discussed at the session. This is a whole complex of questions which is of great concern to the people today, and undoubtedly all our strength must be concentrated on this now.

"I think that this complex of measures made it possible to make this decision...well, not so much made possible but indeed prompted this decision."

[Lenskiy] Sergey Filatov believes that the postponement of Yeltsin's visit to Tokyo cannot have a negative

influence on Russian-Japanese relations because the question of the Northern Territories is not the main one in these relations.

[Filatov] "It is a sore question, a painful question, yes, but it is not the main question. We must move out onto the level of more extensive and more global decisions in our mutual relations. It is necessary to calm down, and it is necessary to understand that Russia did not at all participate in the processes that led to this position with regard to these islands. It must be a participant and start working with the Japanese side to find some sort of decision."

Delay Could Affect Debt Talks

OW1009184892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1758 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The postponement of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan "could affect" negotiations on the foreign debt, stated Russian Minister of International Economic Ties Peter Aven in an interview with INTERFAX. Russia officially announced its intention to get an extension in the terms of repayment of the debt.

Japan "never held the weakest position" in Russia's negotiations with creditors, remarked the minister, adding that at the last conference on this issue in France with treasury directors and deputy finance ministers of the G-Seven Japan maintained "the strictest position." Aven reported that a preliminary "especially informal meeting" of Russian representatives and 18 creditor countries will be held in Paris September 13-14, at which Russia plans to present "many new proposals."

Oil, Gas Accords 'Not Ready'

OW1009235392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a press conference in Moscow today, Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said one of the possible reasons for President Yeltsin's postponement of his visits to Japan and Korea was that the draft agreements on oil and gas that Russia was going to sign with Japan and Korea were not ready. These documents, according to Chernomydin, were an important part of the set of economic agreements Russia was planning to sign with those countries. The preparation of the drafts for the oil and gas agreements would shortly be completed, Chernomyrdin said, and the documents would be signed regardless of whether the President did go to Japan and Korea or not.

Kozyrev Resignation Rumors 'Exaggerated'

LD1009205492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 10 Sep 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] According to RIA, rumors of the possible resignation of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev are being highly exaggerated. The Russian Foreign Ministry is now busy seeking the best ways of reducing the damage caused to Russo-Japanese relations.

The postponment of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan might affect the talks on the Russia's external debt, stated Russian External Economic Relations Minister Aven in his interview with INTERFAX. He added that Japan maintains the most rigid stand on the question of Russia's external debt.

Rally Speakers See Delay as 'Victory'

OW1009184592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1757 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] It's a victory of public opinion and non-parliamentary opposition, said former Soviet Union deputy Viktor Alksnis, commenting on the cancellation of Boris Yeltsin's trip to Japan in his speech Thursday [10 September] at a rally staged by the Russian Committee for Protection of the Kurils.

The other speakers at the rally claimed that Japan's concessions as regards the territorial issue are fraught with a chain reaction leading to the reconsideration of state borders and results of the Second World War, as a whole.

In particular, the "Trudovaya Rossiya" leader, Viktor Anpilov called on the rally participants to continue their struggle for civil rights and preservation of the territorial integrity of the USSR. He proposed to stage another action of protest in Ostankino on September 24-25 with the demand to provide time on the air for the opposition. Mr. Anpilov expressed hope that Japanese will show understanding to the sentiments of the Russian people defending their islands and retain friendly relations with them.

Hokkaido Governor Criticizes Japanese Policy

LD1009171192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1638 GMT 10 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Varlamov; quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tokyo September 10 TASS—The Russian Government exerted every effort toward the improvement of relations with Japan, but the Japanese cabinet decided 'to hit one hundred targets at once' and ended up with zero result", Takahiro Yokomichi, governor of the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido, said this on

Thursday [10 September], commenting on a report that President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Tokyo is postponed.

Addressing a news conference in Sapporo, Yokomichi deplored the postponement of the visit and sharply criticised the course of Japanese diplomacy with regard to Russia. "Figuratively speaking, the trip of the Japanese foreign minister to Moscow was like a gust of the northern wind that compelled the partner to wrap the coat", he said. "Using the principle of the indivisibility of the policy and the economy as a means of dealing with the territorial issue, Japanese diplomacy failed to apply it effectively".

Russia is a young country, and the whole world is interested in its stabilisation. This should be fully realised by those who are shaping the foreign policy cource, the governor of Hokkaido said. He urged the Japanese Foreign Ministry to be more flexible. "Efforts should be taken to persuade those in Russia who object to the solution of the territorial issue", he said. The governor noted that visa-free exchanges are organised for the purpose by the Hokkaido prefecture, that economic ties are stepped up. Still, the possibilities of local government bodies are limited. "I would like the Japanese government to attach more importance to the strengthening of ties with Russia, including economic ties", Yokomichi said.

Sakhalin Governor Criticizes Kozyrev, Kunadze

OW1109120792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1146 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 11 KYODO—Sakhalin Gov. Valentin Fedorov on Friday [11 September] tacitly called for dismissing Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze.

In an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE, Fedorov said Russian President Boris Yeltsin should dismiss Foreign Ministry officials who suggested ways of settling the country's territorial dispute with Japan. Fedorov, however, did not identify Kozyrev and Kunadze by name.

Kozyrev and Kunadze have insisted that Russia should return the two smallest of four disputed islands to Japan in line with the 1956 Japan-Soviet joint declaration which restored diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Fedorov said Yeltsin's decision to postpone a scheduled visit to Japan was the "right" option but that it has effectively stalled bilateral relations.

Fedorov has local jurisdiction over the disputed islands—Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan, and the Habomai group of islets—which the former Soviet Union seized at the end of World War II.

U.S. Joins Japan in 'Major' Air Force Exercises

PM1109073992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Sep 92 p 3

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA press service report: "Rehearsing..."]

[Text] The Japan Defense Agency has announced that major joint exercises involving the Japanese and U.S. Air Forces have started in the airspace over Honshu Island's northern part and Hokkaido Island. The scenario of the "air games" envisages first the detection, with the aid of air defense systems, of "enemy" aircraft attempting to penetrate the northern part of the country's airspace, and then their interception by fighters.

During the exercises Japanese aircrew will daily make up to 50 aircraft sorties in Japanese F-1 fighters and in F-15 fighter-interceptors procured from the United States, which are stationed at the Misawa and Chitose airbases. On the concluding day 16 USAF F-16 fighter-bombers from Misawa airbase will also make combat training flights jointly with the Japanese aircraft.

Yeltsin Speaks With Bush on Relations, Reforms

LD1009161792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1434 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Moscow, 10 September. (ITAR-TASS)—Today, Russian President Boris Yeltsin held a telephone conversation with U.S. President George Bush. Issues of bilateral relations, the interaction of Russia and the United States on the international arena, and the course of reforms in Russia were touched upon in the course of the presidents' talk. [passage omitted]

Government Statement Confirms Visit to China

LD1009163892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1615 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text of statement by the press service of President Boris Yeltsin issued in Moscow on 10 September]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—"The announcement of postponing the dates of B.N. Yeltsin's visit to Japan and South Korea is being interpreted in some circles in such a way that the president of the Russian Federation cannot leave the country 'because of internal political problems,' and that the date of his visit to China could also be postponed.

"The press service of the Russian Federation president is empowered to categorically refute such statements. The preliminary agreement with the Chinese leadership remains completely in force, and B.N. Yeltsin's visit to China will definitely take place in December 1992."

Economics Minister Stresses Interest in Taiwan

OW1009183592 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 1000 GMT 10 Sep 92

[From the "Half an Hour With Wang Xiao" program]

[Excerpts] Russia and Taiwan held a trade and investment meeting in Moscow several days ago. The meeting was sponsored by Taipei's Chunghua Institute for Economic Research and the Russian Federation's National Economic Institute. It came at the end of the visit to CIS by a delegation of industrialists led by Chiang Ping-kun, Taiwan's vice minister of economic affairs. During its two-week visit, the delegation visited Moscow, Kiev, Minsk, and Riga, the capital of Latvia. [passage omitted]

Please listen to remarks made at the end of the meeting by Nechayev, the Russian Federation's minister of economics, to station reporter Matenko regarding the views of Russia.

[Begin Nechayev recording in Russian fading into Mandarin translation] Our foreign economic policy is based on new principles. One of these principles calls for depoliticizing and removing ideological elements from economic relations in the largest possible measure. Guided by these principles, we regard Taiwan as one of the world's largest investors. Considering its economic potential and investment capacity, we do not disguise our interest in developing economic ties with Taiwan. Our cooperation with Taiwan includes that in arms sales and in Russia's defense conversion to civilian uses. In the interests of the PRC—our good, long-time partner—we will, however, try our best to avoid hurting our relations with China in developing relations with Taiwan. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Yeltsin To Turn Over Information on KAL Incident

OW1009155092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1520 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, Sept. 10 KYODO—Russian President Boris Yeltsin told South Korean leader No Tae-u by telephone Thursday [10 September] that Russia would soon hand over materials on the 1983 downing of a Korean Air Lines [KAL] jetliner.

Yeltsin had reportedly said he would provide the information about the incident during his trip to South Korea, which along with a September 13-16 visit to Japan was postponed Wednesday.

The Boeing 747 jetliner en route to Seoul was shot down by a Soviet fighter over Sakhalin on September 1, 1983, killing all 269 passengers and crew aboard.

Government Concerned Over South African Events

LD1009165592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1335 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Nikishov]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 10 Sep—"Moscow expresses profound concern over the development of the events in the Republic of South Africa," a Russia Foreign Ministry spokesman stated today. Commenting, at the request of an ITAR-TASS correspondent, upon the shooting by the military of participants in a peaceful demonstration in Ciskei's bantustan, he noted that "this tragedy confirms once again that violence is only taking South Africa away from the main aim of the settlement process—from building a non-racial and democratic society." [passage omitted]

"We call upon the South African sides to display reason, to restrain the whipping up of passions, and to return to the search for mutually acceptable solutions at the negotiation table," the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman said. "For its part," he stressed, "Russia is ready to promote such efforts, to cooperate to this end with the constructive forces in South Africa, and with all interested parties and organizations."

Kozyrev, PLO's 'Abbas Discuss Palestinians

LD1009172592 Moscow Radio Moscow in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev yesterday held a meeting with Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee, who is on a working visit to Moscow. They held detailed talks in an atmosphere of trust. Particular attention was paid to the progress of the peace process in the Middle East, especially the state of the Arab-Israeli bilateral negotiations.

An official statement on this meeting said that Mahmud Abbas welcomes the trend aiming to reactivate the role of Russia in the Middle East. Andrey Kozyrev, for his part, expressed his optimism as a result of the signs of the new pragmatism and constructive atmosphere in the Palestinians' stand, as well as that of a number of other parties to the peace process, and toward a Middle East settlement.

Our radio commentator, Aleksandr Kushnir, points out that a great deal of speculation has recently appeared in newspapers in different countries to the effect that Russia has changed its mind on its stance vis-a-vis the Palestinian question. It has also been claimed that Moscow has turned lukewarm toward the Palestinians following the resumption of diplomatic relations with Israel, and that it no longer shows interest in a just solution for the Palestinian problem.

These allegations, however, are mistaken. Yes, some modifications have indeed been made in Russia's stance toward the issue of a settlement in the Middle East. The past has been colored with an attitude of support for all the Arabs' actions on the one side, and on the other hand, advance denunciation of all Israel's actions.

The essence of Russia's current stance is a peaceful settlement in the Middle East, based on the guarantee of sovereignty and security rights to all the states and peoples of the region. We call for establishing the rights of the Palestinian people to a sovereign state, but we do not support the terrorism of some Palestinian groups that is directed against the Israelis; nor do we support the armed Israeli attacks against the Palestinian camps and

the civilian inhabitants in southern Lebanon. Terrorism, whether individual or at state level, can never lead to peace in the Middle East. On the contrary, it rather tightens the knot of the Middle East conflict. The peace issue ought to be solved by those taking part in the Arab-Israeli negotiations. Finally, our commentator Aleksandr Kushnir writes, that it seems that a peaceful compromise solution will be necessary and that it is imperative both sides take mutually proportional steps toward each other.

Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

LD1109031292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0203 GMT 11 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Ryabkin]

[Text] Moscow, Sep 11—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived early this morning on a working visit to Moscow. Talks will be held today with Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Andrey Kozyrev. Russian diplomatic circles believe that the focus of the Moscow talks will be issues related to condition and prospects for a Middle East settlement, especially given the new factors which have appeared during the 6th round of bilateral talks in Washington. In addition, the ministers will discuss the further development of relations between Syria and Russia. Economic issues, especially clearing Syria's debts, will also be addressed.

Russia is in favor of expanding friendly relations between our countries and sees favorable pre-conditions for this. Changes in our country and in the world as well make it necessary to modernize our cooperation somewhat. The Russian side believes this is an important visit. Syria is one of the main participants in the talks on the Near East and a great deal depends on its position for establishing peace in this region. Russia—as one of the participants in the process—is interested in the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is right to recall that recently representatives of Palestine and Israel, direct participants in the talks on the Near East, have visited Moscow.

Meets With Kozyrev

LD1109093792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0853 GMT 11 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergey Nikishov and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow September 11 TASS—A meeting of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' has started at the mansion of the Russian Foreign Ministry. The talks are expected to focus on the Middle East peace process. The foreign ministers will also discuss some aspects of bilateral Russian-Syrian relations.

Viktor Posuvalyuk, head of the Department of Africa and Middle East at the Russian Foreign Ministry, told ITAR-TASS before the beginning of the meeting that the Russian Foreign Ministry had held a series of talks recently with the participants in the Middle East settlement. "The current talks are not some imitation of our work in the Middle East. It is a sign that Russia is beginning to pursue a more active policy in that region, to which we are attaching much importance," Posuvalyuk said. A regular round of multilateral talks on the Middle East settlement, in which Russia is playing an important part, will soon begin in Washington, he added.

Cuban Troop Withdrawal Talks Open Second Round

LD1009053492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0531 GMT 10 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Sereda]

[Text] Havana September 10 TASS—The second round of closed-door talks on the withdrawal from Cuba of a Russian military training brigade began in the Cuban capital on Wednesday [9 September]. The Russian delegation is headed by Ambassador at large Vyacheslav Ustinov, the Cuban side by first deputy minister of the revolutionary armed forces Julio Casas Regueiro.

The talks will be fast, productive and constructive, Ustinov told TASS.

The first round was held last November in Havana and yielded no results.

Energy Official on Cuban Nuclear Plant

LD1009194592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1420 GMT 10 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyubov Dunayeva]

[Text] Moscow September 10 TASS—"If the construction of the Cuban "Juragua" nuclear power plant at Cienfuegos is suspended, it will be practically impossible to resume it," Russian Deputy Minister for Nuclear Energy Yevgeniy Reshetnikov told ITAR-TASS, commenting on Fidel Castro's recent statement that there are plans to mothball the "Juragua" station, now being built with Russia's help.

"This decision of the Cuban Government came as a surprise to us, because a document stipulating its completion in 1994 was signed this April," the deputy minister said. It said, specifically, that Cuba would find money to buy the necessary technological control systems and to pay our specialists, employed on the project, in hard currency. Russia has granted Cuba a credit for buying equipment produced by CIS plants.

"I cannot help mentioning the fact that this decision makes Cuba even more dependent on oil deliveries," Reshetnikov stressed. The commissioning of the "Juragua" power plant would sharply reduce Cuba's requirements in oil.

The construction of the "Juragua" plant was conducted with due observance of the requirements of the International Atomic Agency and international standards. "In light of this," Reshetnikov said, "it is very surprising that the newspaper "IZVESTIYA" has alleged with reference to Cuban refugees and doubtful U.S. sources that the construction was allegedly conducted carelessly."

Political Assessment of Fidel Castro

924C2307A Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
4 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 6

[Article by Yevgeniy Bay: "Fidel After Madrid. Portrait of a Leader in the Process of Self-Destruction"]

[Text] Madrid-Moscow—**This year the revolution holiday on Cuba—National Uprising Day, celebrated on 26 July—passed without the usual festivities. At the end of July Fidel Castro was in Spain, at the meeting of presidents of Latin America, Spain, and Portugal. But the Cuban people, Havana believed, had to have a program speech from the leader. And the celebrations were carried over to 5 September—on that day Castro will deliver a message to his compatriots at a mass meeting in the city of Cienfuegos.**

A Monologue That Has Gone On for 33 Years

Such festivities on Cuba are frequently preceded by a pompous presentation of published interviews with Castro by foreign authors, in which the permanent leader, setting aside the political trumpery of the moment, talks about matters eternal. Nor was this year any exception: last week the citizens of Havana were presented with the book, "A Grain of Maize," the basis of which was composed of an hours-long interview with Castro conducted by Sandinista Commandante Tomas Borge, former interior minister of Nicaragua.

"Old men cannot be deprived of the right to make policy," Castro declares right at the start of the interview, adding, not without coquetry, "for the first time in my life, it seems, I am talking about myself as an old man." But lest the reader doubt his capacity to lead, he hereupon explains: "The problem of age is relative. There are presidents who should retire young, and there are those who at 70, 75, or 80 perform their functions effectively." And subsequently, to judge by a report transmitted by AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE under the heading "Self-Portrait of Fidel Castro Following the 'Incredible Self-Destruction of the Soviet Union,'" the Cuban president descended into prolix discourse on the fact that Lenin had, unfortunately, died too soon, that Stalin had scored outstanding successes in the consolidation of the unity of the USSR, that Castro himself had always opposed the cult of personality and all kinds of dogmas and so forth.

True, earlier also Castro had dealt with questions of the role of the individual in history. I recall how at a congress of the Communist Party in 1986 he stunned all those present by the declaration that Cuba's leaders were mortal and that any of them could take ill or go insane. But recently the philosophical speculation of the 66-year-old Castro has gained the ascendancy over everything else. It marked both his recent trip to Spain and, particularly, his visit to Galicia, his father's birthplace. There he at first refused flat out to conduct any kind of news conference, but later he surprisingly came down to the hotel lobby, where the journalists, languid from the heat and holding no hope of success, were in constant attendance, and invited everyone into the bar. "I will be merely a moment in history, a speck of dust," he told those present in his opening remarks. "Who remembers a speck of dust?"

Many Spanish newspapers observed that Castro was speaking with a wheezy voice, too slowly and quietly, and was very strange. One newspaper said that it would have been better if, instead of reflection on eternity, the Cuban leader had explained how his country would emerge from the present crisis.

But Castro's friends play up to the "old man," attempting to pick up and borrow his present terminology. Tomas Borge, for example, spoke of Castro as follows: "Fidel has the intellectual power of Trotskiy, the honesty and incorruptibility of Lenin, and the organizational capabilities of Stalin."

And lest he be reproached with undue servility, the commandante, poet, and commentator deemed it necessary to add one further crafty sentence: "I have the impression that Fidel's associates are playing it too cautiously, not venturing to raise questions concerning some of his propositions which seem to them mistaken."

Hearing such locutions, as if taken from the novel, "Autumn of the Patriarch," by another close friend of Castro, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, would have been very funny. But for me personally, it is distressing. Castro's monologue, which has gone on for 33 years, at one time brilliant, now barely endurable, is a sign of the times which we know all too well. And I am encountering the consequences of the application of "the organizational capabilities of Stalin" on Cuba both here and in Moscow, for there is no end to the stream of Cubans leaving the island and coming to us, to Russia. Engineers, construction workers, musicians, writers, military figures. They are running not in search of higher earnings but in order to survive. Alejandro Martinez, a 33-year-old, but completely gray, a combat pilot who had fought for nine years in Angola, told me in IZVESTIYA's editorial offices that Cubans on the island were preoccupied exclusively with the search for "pasture." Banana-skin steaks are not an anecdote but our tragic reality, he said. You would hear the whispering spreading secretly, away from the eyes of strangers, from one family to another: "When will 'he' finally go?"

The barracks of my military unit are empty, Alejandro Martinez says, yet the Air Force is the elite of the Cuban Army. The soldiers and officers are simply not on duty for weeks at a time, inasmuch as there is no food in the

garrison dining hall. Only the person with a flight that day shows up. He is given for his meal one egg, a piece of bread, and yogurt.

Castro maintains that the American economic blockade of Cuba is genocide. But the Cuban refugees believe that genocide is what their leader is doing to them. Cuba, with its beneficial climate and soil, could be feeding not only itself but also its neighbors, were its people allowed if only some private activity and were if only some kind of "socialist market," defective even, to open.

According to information of civil rights organizations, in the years [as published] that have elapsed since the "incredible self- destruction of the USSR" (Castro's quote from the book "A Grain of Maize") approximately 52,000 persons have attempted to flee to Florida on makeshift rafts or rubber dinghies. Of these, only 17,000 managed to make it to American shores.

Some, endeavoring to leave the "Island of Freedom" at any price, make a journey of 20,000 miles in order to fly from Havana to Miami (which is just a 20-minute flight) via Moscow. These are persons whose relatives in the United States can pay for an Aeroflot ticket in hard currency.

The other 11 million remain on the island, where, as Elizardo Sanchez, one of the best-known dissidents, believes, the jails hold approximately 10,000 political prisoners, and on the outside one person out of every five cooperates with the security police, report from Havana a young Cuban who told him, pointing to his neighbor: "That fat sow will be the first one I kill when this whole shitty dictatorship comes to an end."

Never in my many years of work on Cuba had I seen such outbursts of hatred....

Castro Came to Spain Disguised as Fidel Castro

A Latin American diplomat with whom I am acquainted, an honest and respected person who in his younger years had had connections with guerrilla movements in Latin America but who subsequently broke decisively with violence, told me on the eve of the Madrid meeting: For Fidel this is a last chance to save himself and his revolution. He has run out of time. He must tell the Latin American community, of which he is a member, directly: "You are right, I am announcing a general amnesty and calling elections!" And you would see, the diplomat tried to persuade me, that Cubans, mortally afraid that people from Miami would come and start to settle scores with them, would understand him, and a majority, possibly, would vote for Fidel.

Castro's message to the "Latin American family" in Madrid was different. Just the two propositions, almost verbatim, from the above-mentioned news conference in the bar of the hotel in Galicia.

Why does everyone say over and over that Cuba needs elections? And who, tell me, elected the King of Spain or the Queen of Great Britain?

The system that Cuba has is the most democratic in the world. Democracy is possible only under socialism, and its highest form will be communism.

Castro was getting away with such conclusions a year ago, at the first meeting of leaders of Ibero-America in Guadalajara. By the time of Madrid, the Latin American leaders had convinced themselves that hopes of dinning it into Castro that he was wrong had evaporated completely—the Cuban president was suffering from diminished responsibility.

"Castro came to Madrid disguised as Fidel Castro," the leader of the liberal Cuban opposition in exile, the writer Carlos Alberto Montaner, observed, meaning that Castro was still attempting to preserve his image of the start of the 1960's, but now the presence of his military uniform among the civilian suits of legitimately elected presidents does not simply evoke discomfort; it is becoming impermissible.

This was stated sufficiently clearly by Felipe Gonzalez, who had in the recent past been loyal with respect to Castro. "We no longer want either political prisoners or political exiles in our countries," the chairman of the Government of Spain said, emphasizing for the first time in his 10 years in office that he does "not agree with the Cuban system or with communism in general." The present difficulties which Cuba is experiencing, in his opinion, are not a consequence of the U.S. blockade; they are the fruit of the ineffective policy of the Cuban authorities themselves.

The fact that immediately following the presidents' meeting F. Gonzalez received and spent two hours talking with Carlos Alberto Montaner and his supporters did not go unnoticed by observers.

The presence of Cuban members of the opposition in the Spanish capital was highly perceptible, incidentally. Aides had warned Castro that Madrid was "full of gusanos," and he avoided all handshakes and contact with the Spanish. But he had only to leave his hotel to hear the shouts of "Coward!" and "Executioner!" and his arm, which, by force of habit, shot upward at the sight of a crowd, would hang there limply. Castro's entourage of diplomats and security police looked very unsure of itself, and its nervousness increased after the leader of the Cuban television team, which was to have filmed the leader's "historic visit," sought asylum in Spain.

For Latin America, M. Vargas Llosa, the well-known Peruvian writer, told me, the heroic barbudos epic three decades ago was an incentive and example for imitation. The consequences of this for the continent's democratic culture were catastrophic: We held back the train of history for about 20 years. Brilliant young men were mobilized and summoned in the 1960's by insurgent ideology, but the guerrilla movements, which spread

throughout the continent, were unable to do away with social injustice, and they merely buried our already fragile Latin American democracies, giving rise to an incalculable number of military dictatorships.

The creation of centers of tension, the taking of hostages, assassination, arson—Fidel Castro once seriously and, by all accounts, forever believed that the destiny of both one nation and the whole continent could be changed with the aid of violence. And the true values of democratic culture—free elections, general consensus, human rights—were devalued under his influence.

But what is most paradoxical, in Vargas Llosa's opinion, is the fact that, despite the general debunking of communist ideas, the myth of Castro as some David confronting a Goliath continues to live on in certain artistic circles in Latin America and Western Europe.

Attempts are being made—not by the artistic intelligentsia, of course, but by the former Party-KGB nomenklatura—to support this myth with us as well. At a time when even his former supporters among Latin American politicians are publicly dissociating themselves from Castro, the statement of a Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman that was heard last week, to the effect that "the stage of the greatest difficulties in relations between Cuba and Russia" is behind us and that both countries are now "moving toward greater mutual understanding and mutually profitable cooperation" sounded with the "organizational capabilities of Stalin," who has condemned the nation to starvation, humiliation, and disintegration in deference to his ambitions?

A Russian military brigade is still on Cuba. In addition, the fate of the space-tracking stations monitoring American missiles, which have been preserved on the island and at which, according to information of the American Heritage Foundation organization, approximately 2,000 specialists from the former USSR were employed even last year, remains open, and the future of our submarine base at the port of Cienfuegos remains unclear.

...A study by a Cuban emigre author entitled "Castro's Final Hour" was published in the United States almost simultaneously with the book on Cuba by the Sandinista Tomas Borge. "The Fidel Castro story," it says, "has become surreal and very sad. In the fight against social injustice, Fidel has himself become unjust toward his fellow citizens. Fighting poverty, he has made everyone indigent. Following the victory over a corrupt dictator, he has corrupted the entire country. Having liberated his nation from the United States, he made it the slave of the USSR. Saving people from American aggression, he was prepared to destroy everyone in a nuclear catastrophe."

To this I could add: He is so prepared even now. Entering his autumn, the patriarch really could, according to his sister Juanita Castro, "evoke more pity than respect." But having once for all put the emphasis on violence, he remains very dangerous—to his own nation and the world.

Talks With Ukraine Delegation Held in Secret

LD1009143592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1355 GMT 10 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Sep—The Russian and Ukrainian delegations have agreed to keep the results of their talks at the meeting in Moscow secret. The delegations are headed by Yegor Gaydar, acting chairman of the Russian Government, and by Ukraine Prime Minister Vitold Fokin, who arrived in Moscow on a working visit today.

As an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by Petr Aven, Russia's foreign economic relations minister, "there was discussion of questions of payment and settlements relations between Russia and Ukraine, including questions of allocating funds to Ukraine." During this morning's meeting of the Russian Federation Government, Boris Yeltsin said Ukraine had asked Russia to allocate 100 billion rubles. Experts surmise that this credit is to be used by Ukrainian enterprises to settle their accounts with their Russian partners.

Petr Aven confirmed that the question of the 100 billion rubles was discussed today, but said "he did not wish to comment on it."

Judging by the "veil of secrecy" over the talks and the gloomy faces of the participants at the end of the meeting, one can only surmise that today's visit to Moscow by Vitold Fokin was far from simple and the results of the talks were not fully satisfactory to both sides.

Gaydar, Ukrainian Counterpart Meet

OW1009135192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1039 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian Prime-Minister Vitold Fokin has arrived in Moscow for talks with his Russian counterpart Yegor Gaydar. According to unofficial sources close to the Ukrainian delegation, he is extremely alarmed by the current problems in mutual settlements between the companies of the two countries. Many Ukrainian companies are on the threshold of bankruptcy due to the absence of cash caused by delays in banking transactions. All this, the Ukrainian side believes, can become a dangerous factor curtailing bilateral relations.

It is possible that the talks might focuss on technical aspects of the introduction of the Ukrainian currency concerning both sides.

Aven Unhappy With Stand on USSR Debt

OW1009185592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1758 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Foreign Economic Relations Minister Peter Aven told Interfax that "there are no signs" that Ukraine is going to pay off the foreign debt of the former Soviet Union. Aven commented on this problem following its discussion at Thursday's [10 September] meeting between Prime Ministers Gaydar and Fokin.

During the past seven months, Aven said, Ukraine "has officially transferred nothing" for serving the debt. Ukraine explains that some Ukrainian enterprises have accounts in the Vnesheconombank and money from these accounts does not go to Ukraine, but are spent by Russia for paying off its foreign debt. Aven admitted such a possibility, but he described these sums as "minimal" and uncomparable to "top-priority payments" made by Russia.

Aven believes that for Russia it would be "very hard" to assume responsibility for paying off Ukraine's share in the debt of the former Soviet Union "without any obligations on its side". He explained that Ukraine, unlike, for example, Belarus, has "a big enough share in the foreign debt". At the same time, he said that according to forecasts concerning the payment balance of Ukraine, it is unlikely "to pay off the foreign debt in the near future".

Speaking about the secession of Ukraine from the ruble zone, Aven said that "the earlier it happens, the better for Russia".

Moscow, Ukraine Agree on Black Sea Fleet Symbols

OW1009222092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1547 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Last Friday, September 9, state delegations of Russia and Ukraine formally agreed in Moscow on the set of symbols the Black sea fleet will be using till 1995.

Under the formal agreement, the Black sea fleet will have new colors as of next October 1. It will be flying a white color cloth with a blue stripe along the lower borderline. In the territorial waters and ports of foreign countries its ships will additionally hoist Ukrainian and Russian colors.

The next meeting between the Russian and Ukrainian delegations has been tentatively scheduled for September 21 in Kiev.

Two of Six Draft Agreements Signed With Estonia

OW1009174292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1730 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The sixth round of talks between Russia and Estonia ended in Nakhabino, in the suburbs of Moscow, Thursday [10 September]. During this round, the participants initialed only two of the six draft agreements prepared for the meeting, the first one dealing with communications, the other with mutual acknowledgement of diplomats.

Nonetheless, the sides maintain that they have made a major step forward. They have come to the stage when they no longer need to define their positions, and began to address concrete issues and look for compromises.

It was the last round of talks for this Estonian delegation. On September 20, the Estonians will elect their new parliament which will result in the appointment of a new government, therefore the composition of the delegation will change.

Presidential Decree Appoints Envoy to Croatia

OW1009204792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1408 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents A. Borodin, D. Kuznetsov and others; from "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Yeltsin has issued a decree to appoint Leonid Kerestejiants as Russia's Ambassador to Croatia, a former republic of Yugoslavia.

The ambassador is 60 years old. He received higher education in Leningrad and joined the diplomatic service in 1970.

Previously he served in the Soviet embassies in Yugoslavia and Bulgaria as first secretary, counsellor and minister-counsellor. He speaks Bulgarian, Serbian and Croatian.

His latest job was the chief of the Russian Foreign Ministry's department for servicing the Diplomatic Corps.

UK Inspector on Inaugural 'Open Skies' Flight

PM1109100792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Sep 92 p 3

[Interview with Group Captain Bob Holliday, chief of "Open Skies" mission to Russia, by Mikhail Pogorelyy; place and date not given: "They 'Opened the Sky' Over Russia"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] The "Open Skies" treaty has not yet come into force, but the first flight in Russian skies under this program has already taken place. It was made by a British Andover accompanied by an An-30 of ours. On board the Andover, which left for home yesterday, was a group of foreign inspectors. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondents met with them, and the mission chief, British RAF Group Captain Bob Holliday, military adviser to the British delegation at the Vienna talks, kindly answered a number of questions about this flight.

[Pogorelyy] Group Captain, what was your task in this first flight?

[Holliday] Under the treaty provisions, 24 hours before the start of an inspection (in this case a trial inspection) the inspecting party submits a flight plan which the receiving party is entitled to change or clarify. In this case we requested a route to Shatalovo—the airfield near Smolensk. Why this specific area? Because of its good weather conditions: So far we have used only one technical aid—a camera. The use of other equipment is still being agreed on.

Thus, our main task was to photograph the Shatalovo airfield area and the MiG-25 reconnaissance and training units based there.

[Pogorelyy] But, apparently, besides this specific task, the first flight was also used to rehearse the actual procedure of applying the "Open Skies" rules?

[Holliday] Correct. That is precisely why the Russian side kindly invited, apart from the British, representatives of other countries participating in the talks. Present here are observers from Belgium, Germany, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, the United States, France, and Sweden, which is the first neutral, nonaligned country to want to become a treaty member. All these countries will have to act as the receiving party, and this experience will be useful for them. While now our entire group is hoping to make its own contribution in the elaboration—in collaboration with the Russian Foreign and Defense Ministries—of instructions for holding similar inspections.

[Pogorelyy] You will also have to receive such delegations. Will you be glad of meetings with inspectors from Russia?

[Holliday] Of course. Especially as there is already a small amount of experience. In February a group headed by Ambassador Yevgeniy Golovenko made a trial flight over Britain. Three Russian officers will set off for our country today on board an Andover aircraft to agree on technical questions...

[Pogorelyy] In your view—as a diplomat and serviceman—what is the significance of the "Open Skies" treaty?

[Holliday] When work on the treaty had just started, it was presumed that it would promote the strengthening of trust between participating countries primarily in the military sphere. But now, the aspect of political trust and the facilitation of the implementation of processes within the CSCE framework are certainly no less important. The Russians, as far as I know, also want to use the inspection flights as an opportunity to monitor the ecological situation on the continent.

Political Affairs

Regional Leaders Meet in Cheboksary

Khasbulatov Previews Talks

LD1009203892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Report on interview with Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov by unidentified correspondent at the Cheboksary airport on 10 September; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Khasbulatov] At present things are not as good as we would like them to be. Therefore, all these quarrels should be stopped. We have common problems and common responsibility. Therefore now, on the eve of the Supreme Soviet session, it is necessary to carefully consult the regions and somehow to really discuss the most complicated matters in order to operate together. On the whole, frankly speaking, the president and we do operate. But this tactic of ours is not understood correctly in all the regions. Honestly, we would like to hear the people who directly implement these reforms.

[Correspondent] Can it be said that at present there is accord between the executive and legislative authorities in Russia?

[Khasbulatov] An accord in what sense? Of course there cannot be absolute accord, even in the family you know. From time to time we argue, don't we? Therefore, in the main, I think we all support the most resolute reforms. Quite another matter is how these methods of implementation are viewed and what tactics and what means should be used here. We parliamentarians still are closer to the people, to our voters. We depend on them. On the whole we not only see, but we sense enormous pressure from our ordinary citizen, don't we? Of course, we are painfully upset by failures. That is why we perhaps are not fair sometimes in our acute criticism of the executive power, but it should be taken into consideration, should it not?

Yeltsin Addresses Leaders

LD1109085992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0500 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Speech by President Boris Yeltsin at the all-Russia conference of leaders of the Supreme Soviets of the Russian republics, heads of administration, and economic leaders in Cheboksary—live]

[Text] This is not an all-Russia veche [popular assembly in medieval Russian towns], nor is it a sitting of the government or of the Supreme Soviet. It is a business conference of leaders and representatives of executive power from the republics, krays, and oblasts. I am addressing them.

Today we are holding the first such all-Russia conference of leaders of republics, oblasts, krays, and autonomous entities within Russia. Previously, it was stated that assemblies would, as it were, be held departmentally. The Supreme Soviet held meetings of the leaders of soviets. I met heads of administrations. Now, for the first time, through an arrangement with Ruslan Imranovich Khasbulatov, we have gathered together the leaders of representative and executive power. The conference is being attended by members of the government. I thank the leadership of the Chuvash Republic for the opportunity provided for our work.

Apart from attending the conference, I intend to make a short tour of the republic. I will discuss its problems with the leadership.

The following working procedure is proposed. Reports from leaders, the president, the Supreme Soviet, and the government—30 minutes. Speeches—up to 10 minutes. Questions are to be submitted in written form.

You and I have common problems. We bear a common responsibility before the people of Russia, and, if we really want to work efficiently, then our cooperation must be strengthened. That is, perhaps, the most important topic confronting us today.

The main feature at the moment is that the center of gravity of the reforms we have started is now shifting from the federal to the regional level. It must be acknowledged that reform is proceeding with great difficulty and not without pain. The slump in production is continuing. It is caused not only by the sundering of economic ties, including those with CIS countries, but also by the structural reorganization of the economy that has begun and the sharp fall in the output of the military-industrial potential.

Many groups in the population are still in quite a serious material position. More energetic measures are required for their social protection on the part of the government, local organs of power, and the administration.

Prices on the consumer market are still rising at a high rate. The investment expectations of the population remain high. The inflow of credit into enterprises that is underway is again giving rise to concern.

The recent phenomena will confront us again and again like a menacing specter if the bankruptcy legislation does not operate at full strength. It is not working at the moment.

The role of the bank is very great here, of course. The status of the country's Central Bank is not fully adequate, in my opinion. Perhaps it is necessary to return once more to the question of granting complete independence to the Central Bank of Russia or making it subordinate to the executive power.

These factors and also the insufficiently effective mechanism for the sale of foreign-currency earnings have inflated the dollar's exchange rate to unprecedented

levels. Admittedly, over the past week, the dollar-ruble [R] rate has begun to fall. It fell by R7 during the week. It is now R203 instead of R210, but these may be freak occurrences. We will not be able to surmount these problems if some people continue to have access to cheap credit and to receive credit without being obliged to pay it back. This applies to the CIS countries, too. The chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet arrived yesterday to ask for credit amounting to R100 billion. I'm sorry, but we can't do that, of course.

Instead of the former grant, as it were, the republics that were in the Union will now have to proceed by such a path if the size of subsidies to inefficient enterprises is not limited, and if producers of goods do not overcome the psychology of living at someone else's expense.

Today, the problem of privatization, which is gathering momentum, confronts us in all its magnitude. Its success is, above all, connected with how much, and what sort of, property we will be able to offer people in exchange for their property coupons. In the near future, the task of raising the real purchasing power of the coupon has to be the main object of our concerns. To this end, it is extremely important, first, to ensure a full and established time table for effecting the sale of enterprises to shareholders in accordance both with the law and with the decree; and, second, to provide maximum help to citizens as regards the effective use of the coupons they have received. It is fundamentally important to organize objective and, above all, comprehensible information to the population about what to do with the property coupon. The newspapers are still confused as to what it's all about.

Comprehensive help is needed for the investment funds that are being set up and which help citizens to dispose of their coupons in the most reliable way.

The local and central power bodies are capable of doing this together. We will resolutely demand the fulfillment of Russian antimonopoly legislation, including in relation to new monopolist structures based on amalgamations, concerns, ministries, associations, and so on. It is impermissible that, as a result of privatization in place of state monopolies, we should then have private or semi-state monopolies.

Hyperinflation is becoming a serious threat to reforms in the near future. Supporters of cheap credits and large social programs, which are unrealistic today, are trying to push us into this abyss. Unfortunately, they are unrealistic today. Hyperinflation is able to turn into dust the incomes of a broad strata of the population against a backdrop of financial grandees who are growing fantastically rich. That is why the salvation of the ruble is not an abstract phrase of economic theoreticians, as they say, but a key issue of vital interest to millions of our people.

Retaining social stability in society is an extremely important problem for the success of the economic reforms which are being carried out. It is impossible without protection of the interests of the less-well-off sections of society and without reaching a compromise between the main social forces.

It is fundamentally important that economic reforms are carried out rigorously and decisively at the center and in the regions. Lack of coordination of the activities of representatives and of the executive power from top to bottom is intolerable at the present time. What in the past was merely insignificant unevenness in the mechanism of state administration may now become a real obstacle to the implementation of changes that have been planned.

Serious measures are needed to correct this situation. They must be found within the area of profound changes in the system of state administrative bodies and the self-administration of Russia and in establishing its statehood.

Preparation for and the signing of the federation treaty were the first stage of this complex matter. With the adoption of the treaty the process of a return of real power to national-territorial and administrative bodies of administration and self-administration and, in the long run, to each citizen of Russia, has virtually begun. But this very first stage is still far from having been completed. The traditions of a unitarian state have proved to be too rigid in all sections of the Russian state. This concerns the structure and practice of the day-to-day work of the Supreme Soviet and the government. Many laws, normative acts, instructions, and so on which haave been adopted in the ensuing period run counter to the federation treaty and the principle of the demarcation of powers between the federal bodies and bodies of state administration of republics, krays, oblasts, autonomous entities, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg. Regional bodies of power also frequently violate the statutes of the federation treaty and corresponding tenets of the Constitution, violate the laws of the Russian Federation, and fail to fulfill presidential decrees and government decisions.

All this impairs Russia's statehood, which has not grown strong, disorganizes the management of the social and economic process in the country, slows down the implementation of the reforms, and strengthens legal nihilism in society. As a result, the Russian Federation as a whole and its regions, all the citizens of Russia, are bearing palpable moral and material losses.

The following is necessary in order to overcome these negative tendencies: First, to bring the enactments of the president and Government of Russia, and also the procedure of their adoption into line with the terms of the Federal Treaty. I have issued the appropriate instructions. Second, the Supreme Soviet is to commence work, at its upcoming session and without awaiting the adoption of a new Constitution, on reviewing the practice of legislative activity in accordance with the Federal Treaty and the federal structure of Russia. At its upcoming session it is necessary to actively start the adjustment of laws that have been adopted in accordance with this

document. Third, the government has to conclude agreements with the Council of Ministers and the subject administrations of the Russian Federation on issues relating to the implementation of plenipotentiary powers in the spheres of the joint conduct and delegation of plenipotentiary powers to each other. So far this has not been done. Fourth, to continue work on forming proper federal bodies of executive authority, changing the structure of the government on the basis of existing institutions of presidential representatives and administrative control.

Ultimately, we should obtain a system of state power that will ensure on the one hand the free economic development of the subjects of the Federation unrestrained by the center, and on the other, political and economic stability and the country's sufficiency in defense. We are in favor of a patient dialogue of mutual respect between federal and regional bodies of government and regions between themselves. Without this, this work will not produce results. I am convinced of this. Any attempts to construct and then introduce it by coercive means will fail—this is borne out by the situation around Russia—and are capable of leading only to the weakening of statehood, and moreover, to the disintegration of Russia. We will never go along this path.

In the current circumstances, legal separatism is particularly dangerous when enactments are adopted in the regions that are at variance not only with Russian laws but at times with elementary standards of legislation, and indeed, common sense. Such occurrences as the limitation of the population's migration, the putting forward of demands to review borders, the substitution of central information channels for local ones contradict the norms of a civilized state. I think that organizing a populist campaign of exerting pressure on the federal power is impermissible. In recent times, rural leaders have particularly distinguished themselves.

Here are a few examples: Nozhikov—I hope he is present—the head of the administration of Irkutsk oblast: He gave me a written last warning. If you don't privatize the oblast's power engineering, he says, I will fire you without final warning, and even without a first warning if you exert pressure on authority in this way.

The efficiency of state control is suffering from an unclear separation of competences between representative and executive authority in the region. The soviets frequently interfere in matters of operational administration. Through their decisions, executive bodies are substituting for representative bodies. In practice, all this leads to the literal paralysis of power in the region. There are of course weighty reasons for this. Regrettably, to a large extent, the law in a kray, oblast soviet of people's deputies, and in a kray or oblast administration is incorrect and mistaken, and here, to a large extent the chairman of the committee, Zhukov, is guilty.

This law is aimed at the conditions of a stable society, a stable society which has already taken shape, and not at the kind of transitional condition through which Russia is living. For this reason, the calls of a number of heads of administration of krays and oblasts to suspend the force of some sections of this law are understandable. But there is a subjective side to the issue. The views of the soviet and of the administration on the strategy and tactics of the transformations being conducted at the present time do not, unfortunately, coincide everywhere. I would say about fifty-fifty by region. Fifty percent are living normally with each other, and 50 percent are constantly trying to pull a piece of the blanket over to themselves—first one then the other. This is impermissible now.

It is difficult to define this by example where there are probably interim variants, too, where they live half-well.

But there are also many examples where the chairman of the soviet and the head of administration are in harmony.

I was in Omsk oblast recently. And it was just nice to look at people and get together with them, and see how people relate to them, and how things are going there. This is their common cause, they are both rooting for the business of the oblast, rooting and working. That is why their session never turns into a permanent turbulent rally which annoys the population and which, of course, does not increase confidence in the authorities. It is high time the leaders in the localities understand that they are responsible and clearly define their position with regard to reforms. People will never be forgiving if the hardships they are experiencing are in vain, if the reforms fail to yield positive results merely because the two branches of power are in disagreement with each other, and particularly, those in the localities. It is erroneous to think that the representative and executive bodies in the regions are doomed to duplicate and to counteract each other. It is a serious mistake to think so. One must stop thinking so. It is quite possible to separate their functions. The positive experience of many areas proves this. I am naming here Omsk. One can also name Smolensk, Nizhniy Novgorod, and other regions.

The regional soviets must be more confident to examine major strategic issues, the development of territories, and not just deal with minor issues of caring for executive bodies. Unfortunately, the third branch of power, the legal branch, has almost fully withdrawn itself from current affairs. It forms the weakest link in today's government structure, to my great regret. This significantly reduces our possibilities in fighting organized crime, economic crimes committed by officials, and explains the total absence of law and order. We have reached the point when criminals sort things out between themselves right in the street. As for Moscow, grenade-throwers are already in use here. Meanwhile, some in the Supreme Soviet are developing the idea that the population should be able to purchase weapons without any restriction. This is simply madness. I mean certain deputies, of course.

It seems that it is necessary, indeed, to get a grip on the legal reform in Russia, to deal directly with it. We are clearly lagging behind in implementing this reform. It is important to synchronize it with the economic and social reforms in order to provide them with a sound legal basis.

The discussion with regard to the need to reform the regional bodies of representative power and direct elections of administration heads, when the moratorium ends on 1 December, causes certain uneasiness. I think the holding of new elections in the Russian Federation, both of soviets and administration heads, is impermissible at present. They should be left to work for the remaining two and a half years without looking over their shoulders.

And then elections should be held. Do you agree? [chanting of "yes", applause]

Good. [words indistinct] Let them be elected.

[Khasbulatov] We will discuss it. We will discuss it.

[Yeltsin] Ruslan Imranovich is prompting me here that we will discuss it.

[Khasbulatov] We will convince them.

[Yeltsin] Yes. I think that we really have to convince the Supreme Soviet to embark upon this path. Indeed, people won't really, you understand, I mean, it will be difficult for them to come to the elections. They are not needed now. Some sort of stability is needed especially now, in this transitional period. Even if there have been mistakes with respect to cadres in some places, those mistakes can be numbered in single figures, and not in dozens—out of 88 heads of soviets and heads of administration. The potential of the system of federal and regional administration bodies that has been formed is sufficient for implementing transformations and reforms. It is sufficient, including the Supreme Soviet, which is capable of passing laws that are needed today, needed by the reforms, by Russia and Russia's inhabitants.

The global reshuffling of cadres can only lead to unjustified disruptions in the reforms. It is important, particularly now when the most difficult stage of reforms is behind us, to stop all idle talk about the uselessness and the needlessness of the work done by deputies. This talk should stop because deputies who were elected in 1990 must work through the whole term of office established by law, the term for which they were elected.

[Khasbulatov] Bravo.

[Yeltsin] As president I think that it is impermissible to doubt the need for representative organs of power and even for the actual work done by deputies. The course for the further continuation of the process of making our society more democratic remains immutable. Information received from localities and the findings of trips to various regions of the country show that the majority of the population of the Russian Federation have politically declared themselves to be in favor of further implementing and deepening economic reforms, in favor of extensive cooperation between the legislative and executive powers, all strata of society. Our common duty is to work in this direction.

The genesis of Russian statehood is happening in the complicated conditions of economic crisis. Regions that have a high concentration of surplus industries and industries under conversion, and incomplete investment programs are finding themselves in an especially difficult situation. So do regions with limited capabilities for self-reliance and self-regulation, with a high proportion of production industries, whose prices and other conditions for selling products are controlled by the state. So do regions with a critical ecological situation requiring the closure of many factories and special measures for social protection. In effect, every region in Russia can fall under one of the above categories. Substantial differences in starting conditions are dictated to regions by different models of cooperation with the central bodies and other subjects of the federation.

Some regions are relying on speedy privatization, the creation of market structures, and favorable conditions for investment. I have already named Nizhniy Novgorod oblast. Others, on the contrary, are striving to reduce interregional economic contacts, and to switch exclusively to barter. Some regional leaders prefer to conduct endless political maneuvering to the detriment of businesslike practical work.

I will tell you straight out that if the authorities of a particular region want to live on the island of so-called developed socialism as once in Tomsk oblast, to plan prices, to allocate products by ration card—that's their business. But then, it will be they themselves who will answer for the results of their activity before the population that elected them.

At the same time, the Russian Government will not be reconciled with partisan methods aimed in particular against state tax policy, with attempts to switch to a single channel tax system capable of toppling the federal budget. When a real threat arises to Russian statehood, we will not resort to concessions, all the more so since the ideas of regional economic self-enclosure and separatism will not find the support of the population of Russia as a whole.

It has to be admitted that we made miscalculations in regional policy. Some distant regions have nevertheless remained distant regions and did not receive priority attention, particularly as regards the Far East and the North. This change in direction has started. The Government of Russia will study in more detail the specifics of the regions in implementing all-Russian structural, investment, financial, social, and foreign policy.

At the same time, I do not feel that flexibility in this should boil down just to granting various benefits to specific regions. This is a most simple but not the most effective method. More than 40 documents have already been adopted in which various republics, krays, and

oblasts have been granted this or that benefit—starting from the tax system and ending with the possibility of entering the external market. This makes it possible for some leaders to appear to the population in the role of so-called benefactors wringing vitally needed resources from the center. Here, political responsibility for the crisis is placed fully on the Russian Government.

At the same time, according to data from Russia's monitoring administration, out of the resources received as a result of these benefits, in foreign economic activity only up to 3 percent is used for the purchase of food, 8 to 10 percent for the development of production, and the remainder goes on official duty trips abroad, foreign cars, and just for so-called nonestablished purposes.

Instead of the practice of wringing various benefits, what is necessary is a fairly simple mechanism acceptable to all for implementing economic reforms based on policy and criteria. The government should single out key spheres in which its regional policy will emerge from principles common to all regions.

In other spheres the local authorities should be given complete independence. Then the dialogue with the regions will go over from the language of exerting pressure to the language of cooperation. I think it is important for the regional bodies of administration to concentrate their efforts on the overall significance of directions—such directions as conversion and the preservation and development of the advanced sectors—space and aviation technology, nuclear technology, and so forth, fundamental science, reform of the armed forces, social protection for servicemen retired into the reserves, and so forth. There will of course be the problem of crime.

Such directions as the development of small and medium entrepreneurship, social programs, nature conservation measures, the oblast policy, and utilizing natural resources efficiently must be transferred to a regional level. The main burden of the widescale program of privatization lies with the regions as well.

It is understandable that such changes will require a new level of direct horizontal ties without the participation of the center. At the moment, various economic cooperation associations are coming into being in the regions, voluntary associations of the republics, krays, oblasts, and autonomies. It is hardly likely to be necessary to impart state status to such associations. This will lead to them receiving greater rights than their founders.

Yet another level of territorial administration has come about. At the same time the interregional associations can get new economic contacts going, improve the efficiency of the economy in the rayons and in Russia as a whole. So, this experience is naturally a positive one. As experience shows, the return is especially high if the soviet and the administration of regions have a common approach to activity within the framework of the associations and do not throw the blanket over one another.

I would like to dwell on yet another problem that I think is underestimated. This is a question of the redistribution of powers vertically. It has come to a halt on a regional level. The republican authorities, the kray and oblast soviets and administrations are striving to take upon themselves the management of all the social and economic processes right down to the level of the town, rayon, and village. This is evoking a great amount of tension. What is especially intolerable is the contradictions between the heads of administrations of krays and oblasts and the administrations from the capitals, as they say. Both the latter and the former are appointed by decree of the president. How can the head of the administration of Krasnodar kray wage battle against the head of the administration of Krasnodar? How can that be permissible?

And when I gained my experience in production practice, let's say when I was an enterprise director, if the head and the chief engineer fight between themselves, both need to be removed because the collective has split in two. Some support one, others support the other one. Both need to be removed, replaced. Over and done with. Work starts.

Evidently, a more precise definition is needed for normative acts dividing the powers of regions and cities, and on their membership. If good will exists, all disputes can simply be settled. Now the procedure will either be changed or has already been altered. The heads of the administrations of the capitals, oblasts, krays, and towns will be appointed by the heads of the administrations of the oblasts and krays and not by the president.

We have conducted an experiment, but we have not been very convinced by it. It is necessary to immediately work out and embark upon local self-government reform. The task is to considerably strengthen the rights and economic potential of the regions and to create there a capable and responsible administrative apparatus. Surely there is no point at this level to blindly copy the organization of state bodies; for example, to maintain the division of self-administration bodies of villages, settlements, rural and urban areas into government and executive bodies. On the contrary, by its very nature, local self-administration is orientated toward local traditions and forms of organization, as in the past, you will remember, were the so-called zemstvos. They had extensive rights.

Federal and regional power bodies should be more attentive toward regional and urban all-Russian associations and establish a constructive dialogue with them. Reform of the state structure of the Russian Federation will not be successful unless the lowest bodies of independent self-administration of the population emerge and are strengthened. This deep-rooted system must spread downward and as deeply as possible. These formations are in their infancy, but they have appeared here and there in the work of self- administration bodies of microrayons, and various independent associations of citizens are operating according to interests or religious

beliefs, as well as noncommercial funds, intellectual clubs, cultural groups, and so on.

These are the first signs of the founding of a full-blooded civil society and the foundations of a new democratic society for the whole of Russia.

A well-considered policy of both federal and regional bodies and self-administration bodies in relation to such formations is needed. All these questions may be solved during the course of broad discussion and the subsequent adoption of statutes of krays, oblasts, and major towns, as well as regulations of local self- administration bodies at a lower level.

The Federation should be brought into line with Russia's, Constitution and laws, and features characteristic of a specific region, town, or rayon in these documents. The aims of federal and regional bodies of administration require the working out of an effective mechanism for their cooperation. I think it is advisable to support the proposal put forward by a number of regions to introduce the post of first deputy chairman of the Russian Government in charge of regional policy. We have to have two first deputy chairmen. The first will deal with regional policy. The second first deputy will deal with branch policy. And let them cooperate. Then regions will know who they have to deal with.

Now a few words about the situation regarding bringing in the harvest. Grain has been threshed in 70 percent of the areas under crops in Russia as a whole. We think this is not bad. The yield amounts to more than 21 quintals per hectare. As far as the last five years are concerned, we have not had such yields in the course of that period at this time of the year. Eighty million tonnes of grain have been threshed as far as the harvested acreage is concerned—the overall figure last year amounted to 88 million. Even if the yield from the remaining 30 percent of areas not yet harvested is between 12 and 15 quintals—and it is usually the case that there is a decline in the yields toward the end, that is only natural, as the losses are greater—then it is possible to expect that the total amount harvested will be approximately in the range of 110 million tonnes as against last year's 88 million. This does not mean that we will not have to buy grain abroad, but all the same, it will not be as much as the 25 million tonnes purchased last year. It will probably be 7 million and, at the most, 10 million tonnes, account having been taken of the fact that we have taken 5 million tonnes of grain from the state reserves over the past few years and that it is essential to return these 5 million tonnes of grain to the state reserves without fail.

The situation varies from region to region. If, say, Belgorod, Orel, Lipetsk, Tambov, Bryansk, Nizhniy Novgorod, Kirov, Smolensk oblasts, the Chuvash Republic, and Mari-el fulfill their pledges for the delivery of grain to the state, sales are being held back in a number of territories. Resources are being diverted to local needs in what is a very basic manner and aspects of this are making themselves felt. Moreover, this is simply inexplicable. So, here we have Krasnodar Kray again, we have Dyakonov again.

A yield of 40 quintals per hectare in the Kuban—that's a splendid yield. They harvested, threshed 6.2 million tonnes of grain. They sold 1.5 million tonnes, 54 percent to the state. So, what needs to be pointed out? In my opinion, 33 rayons in the Kuban region—33, am I mistaken? Each rayon is operating exactly on a percentage basis. In other words, this sort of sabotage is being monitored from the top. It is being monitored. The Volgograd region has been caught for the second time—on the matter of housing for servicemen and now over grain. It threshed 3.8 million tonnes and delivered 38 percent according to its target and 15 percent of the amount threshed. Can this be permitted? I don't want to enumerate any more examples.

In conclusion, I would like to say the following. I believe that we all want one thing, and this is that the power system in Russia should overcome the disease of growth as quickly as possible and finally acquire a normal and natural state. People need this today in order to carry out the reforms more effectively. This will be even more necessary tomorrow when Russia becomes a strong, prosperous, democratic state and occupies a worthy place in world civilization. I am convinced of that. And how quickly we solve this task depends directly on everyone who is in this hall. In order to justify the faith of the Russian people we must overcome petty conflicts—and they are petty—and seek accord and start effective interaction with all branches of authority. We can do this, we shall preserve and lift up Russia! Thank you.

Yeltsin on Japan, ROK Visits

LD1109084692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] An all-Russian conference of kray, oblast, and autonomous formations' heads began in Cheboksary today. The central authorities' leaders are taking part in the work of the forum. Our special correspondent managed to conduct an interview with Boris Yeltsin. The president said the following on the aims of the conference:

[Begin Yeltsin recording] This conference was planned. Ruslan Imranovich [Khasbulatov] and I decided approximately a month and a half ago to hold the conference. This conference, these meetings are being held in departments, so to speak. Khasbulatov confers with chairmen of soviets, and the president confers with heads of administrations. That is why, there is often a lack of coordination in the regions. We need to unite them and try now to join them together tightly to eliminate this lack of coordination, so that they work in unison. It is high time we stopped playing political games. The time has come to work together. [end recording]

Boris Yeltsin was also asked about the reasons and possible consequences of the postponement of his visit to Japan and the Republic of Korea.

[Begin recording] [Yeltsin] Japan has raised the issue of the Kuril Islands too categorically. We cannot do it this way. You understand Russians cannot give up the Kurils like this, to go with nothing.

[Unidentified reporter] Will our economic relations with these countries deteriorate? What do you think?

[Yeltsin] No, I do not think so. Of course, there will be no dynamism. At the same time, if the visit were to take place, and we had failed to agree on the islands, there still would have been no such dynamism. I talked to Miyazawa, talked with No Tae-u in Korea, and said yesterday that I will provide all documents on the Korean Boeing, including the decoding of the black box. We will give these documents. [end recording]

Gaydar Addresses Leaders

LD1109102592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1010 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] Cheboksary, Volga Region September 11 TASS—Yegor Gaydar, acting head of the Russian Government, believes that privatisation, the struggle against unemployment and the reduction of enormous expenditures on subsidies for livestock breeding are the three major economic problems. He spoke today at the all-Russian conference of heads of the republics, regions, territories and autonomous districts integrated in Russia, which opened today in the capital of Chuvasha, a republic in the Volga region integrated in the Russian Federation.

According to Gaydar, it is impossible to create a normal civilised economy in Russia without privatisation, without turning over state property to other owners. He admitted, however, that privatisation "creates extensive opportunities for political speculation."

The distribution among citizens of 10,000-rouble vouchers will begin on October 1 within the framework of the implementation of the privatisation programme. The vouchers can be used for purchasing shares of the enterprises, which are subject to privatisation. Critics of the government have already accused it of starting the privatisation campaign out of political, and not economic considerations.

"As a specialist, I can tell you that there are 120 ways of carrying out privatisation, but the most important thing is to go over from words to deeds," Gaydar said.

According to Gaydar, the growth of unemployment is inevitable in Russia. There are whole regions, which are potentially dangerous in this respect. He said the government had drawn up a special programme of actions to be put into effect in crisis situations.

Touching upon the problem of the growth of prices, Gaydar said the situation was the worst in livestock breeding. The government's subsidies to livestock breeding are equal already to arms expenditures, he added.

Gaydar on Local Economic Restructuring

OW1109113792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1011 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Only cooperation at federal and regional level can significantly advance the economic reform, said to an IF [INTERFAX] correspondent during an interval at the conference in Cheboksary the acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar. He emphasized that involving local power in economic restructuring was the key to economic stabilization now. Russia's government will help to choose priorities in this work and coordinate programs to be fully supported by the cabinet.

Besides, the government intends to guarantee the regional authorities access to information centres and all communication channels. Without this—in Mr. Gaydar's view—it is impossible to include the regions in economic restructuring. The acting premier compared the regions with a pot in which "the meat of economic reform boils". He welcomed as expedient the President's proposal to introduce the post of a vice-premier of Russia in charge of regional policy.

For the full interview with Mr. Gaydar, turn to PB [Presidential Bulletin].

Volskiy Interviewed on Politics, Economy

PM1009135192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Sep 92 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Arkadiy Volskiy, president of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, by Gennadiy Yastrebtsov; place, date not given: "Arkadiy Volskiy: 'Russia Will Be Saved by People Without Hatred in Their Eyes'"; first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] The president of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs talks with PRAVDA's correspondent about the economy and politics.

[Yastrebtsov] Arkadiy Ivanovich, let us begin with an "easy" question: Do you read PRAVDA?

[Volskiy] Of course. In life in general I have never been quick to change my friends, convictions, or habits without good reason and over many years it has become almost a reflex action to start the day with PRAVDA and end it with the evening edition of IZVESTIYA. Now, of course, the range of compulsory reading has widened substantially. I personally or our union's information service "monitor" all interesting material in TRUD, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, DELOVOY MIR, KOMMERSANT, EKONOMIKA I ZHIZN, and RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA—in all we keep tabs on dozens of publications. We look at some more out of interest, at others out of necessity and the conviction that no serious person has the right to limit the scope of his information to one type of newspaper. PRAVDA

reflects the interests and opinions of vast strata of the population and it is intolerable not to be aware of them or to fail to take them into account.

Of course, my attitude toward the present PRAVDA is mixed. For many years I, like many others, valued this newspaper for its thoroughness, reliable facts, and unhurried evaluations. Especially in publications on economic topics. I recall, for example, D. Valovoy's long battle against the gross output indicator, Ye. Gaydar's article on economic problems, and your series of reports on the country's transport. In the economic sphere generally (as opposed to the internal party and ideological spheres) PRAVDA has always been on the side of forces working for reforms and for innovation. Industrialists valued its stance in the struggle to expand enterprises' rights.

Now, however, in my view, PRAVDA has largely lost those traditions and gotten bogged down in political polemics. Furthermore, it sometimes conducts this polemic with excessive fervor and prejudice and in some articles loses the capacity for sober and objective analysis of the facts. You rashly allowed PRAVDA to become the mouthpiece of certain orthodox forces. I think that this decision was a mistake. I like to think that it is a temporary one.

[Yastrebtsov] You have taken the bull by the horns right away! But you yourself said that PRAVDA reflects the interests and mood of millions of people. They read us precisely because of what we are!

[Volskiy] The press is the "fourth estate" because it not only reflects but also molds public opinion and influences its development and transformation. Either it teaches people to reflect calmly or it excites emotions, stirs minds, and arouses passions. That does not apply only to PRAVDA, of course. This applies to them all. I want journalists to be aware of the effect and the repercussions of their words. And I want them to understand that maintaining and, worse still, deepening the present split in society, the opposition, confrontation, and distrust spell doom for Russia.

[Yastrebtsov] Are you for peace at any price?

[Volskiy] We are not playing for peanuts here. When you are dealing with the fate of the motherland, no shame really attaches to paying a higher price. Especially when this price concerns the question of whether or not to waive principles and political objectives.

I shall spell out my position in greater detail. From the very beginning of perestroyka (or to be more precise, from the beginning of my time as an aide to Yu.V. Andropov, who gave the first and most important impetus to the transformations), I was a consistent supporter of deep reforms, both in the economy and in society as a whole. I did that as far as my potential and the characteristics of the time permitted. Of course, my ideas about the scale and content of the reforms changed considerably in time when new opportunities "opened up" and the view of the problems deepened.

For a long time I, like tens of millions of people, was convinced that the party and the party alone should be the mainspring of change. It was our common misfortune that the CPSU lacked leaders who could transform the party itself first and foremost. But perhaps this was also an unrealistic task from the outset, who knows. After all, it is a fact that the communist leaders of a number of republics were the most rabid turncoats and leaders of nationalist and separatist forces. For several years the CPSU essentially turned into a mechanical formation combining various parties—parties of a democratic orientation and of a nationalist-conservative orientation. It grieves me that ultimately it was not the former who gained the upper hand. Hence the political outcome that the CPSU perished before the USSR without even offering resistance.

Of course, there can be different hues and positions in the assessment of past events. The disintegration of the USSR gives me no more pleasure than it does to many others. Show me what decent people take any pleasure from it! I, of course, would have changed the CPSU's role and place in society by other acts. Instead of bloody revolutionary measures I would have preferred the path of the Union's gradual reform based on national accord. But it was a terrible thing when we jointly tore the concept of "fraternal friendship" to pieces and turned it into a "fraternal grave." That is why I support peace and civil accord even at the highest price.

[Yastrebtsov] You were sometimes called Gorbachev's "secret adviser," his especially trusted agent. At the very least you were in contact with him quite a long time and quite often. Why did he lose?

[Volskiy] I was never a "secret adviser." I am sorry but this is nonsense. Like others, I was not particularly close to M.S. Gorbachev, he never allowed anyone to get too close to him. I have to say that I have nothing to do with these latter-day "Boyar Morozovs" who go into hysterics about the antichrist Gorbachev. There is an element of betrayal in that, which is deeply alien to me. Prejudice and a lack of objectivity in evaluating a personality of this magnitude could lead to dangerous mistakes. You have to look at the whole range of his activity—the achievements and the mistakes. But since you asked me precisely about the reasons for the failure I shall mention what I as a man found particularly vexing.

Gorbachev switched loyalties too often. The further things went, the more he listened only to his own monologues and rejected any opinion that did not suit him. As a result he squandered an asset that is invaluable to a political leader—the trust and intellectual resources of his colleagues. Let us be honest. Initially he had a unique standing: A whole powerful strata of society

trusted him and followed him—and were cruelly disappointed when they saw for themselves the leader's indecisiveness and unreliability. Hence the present attitude toward him—people cannot forgive disappointed hopes.

I also agree with the assessments now being voiced by many people: Gorbachev had no sense of comradeship, he always sought to focus everything on himself. Yet he had a good team with an exceptionally high intellectual potential. Something that Yeltsin does not have at his disposal right now, for example.

[Yastrebtsov] By all accounts, you think that Burbulis, Kozyrev, and the others are no godsend for the president of Russia?

[Volskiy] Well, in the first place, I am categorically opposed to the view that the Russian Government is the covert enemy of the Russian people. I do not want to generalize. But I believe that G.E. Burbulis, for example, is playing the same kind of irrational role in B.N. Yeltsin's political life as Kryuchkov did in Gorbachev's. It is no coincidence that they are even outwardly similar—not in appearance, of course, but in their manner of debating, proclaiming, and standing their ground. Most of all, in their fanatical and dogmatic adherence to their own concepts. Even the "RF-Politika" center, which enjoys the state secretary's protection, provides the same kind of misleading information as the USSR KGB analytical center used to do. Then the subject of scrutiny was the general secretary, now it is the president of Russia.

In a recent interview one Russian minister described himself as an "explosive man" who likes to undermine everything, destroy the old, and so forth. A kind of political "battering ram." Undeniably, at certain periods in history you need people capable of "battering down" the old structures. But a battering ram cannot be an instrument of creation. A different approach is needed there.

Well, the essence of the changes that are needed in the cadre composition of the new authorities now is that the "battering ram" specialists, the "wreckers," and the rest have had their day. Reforms need competent, thinking, sound people. But the "wreckers" do not want to play the part of the obliging and obedient moor—hence all this moaning about the "nomenklatura revanche as a threat to mankind" (no more nor less).

[Yastrebtsov] Your are described as being one of those "revanchists," dubbing you either the "industrialists general or the state security general," the spokesman of the military-industrial complex' interests, or the leader of the directors' lobby. Recently Burbulis described you as a typical party-ocrat with no experience of working in industry.

[Volskiy] I have not had a vacation for four years. Recently I simply had to take two weeks off—for a good rest. And in that short time I read so much filth and hysterical nonsense about myself. As though in response to someone's orders. I pondered that for a long time. The main thing—Burbulis' words were the same as those used by the newspaper DEN. I came to the conclusion that this is simply panic, a typical example of a vulgar mentality.

My 15 years' work at the Likhachev Truck Plant gave me the kind of tempering and preparation that enable me to examine all production problems in a sufficiently informed way. Subsequently almost my entire party career was spent in the CPSU Central Committee Machine Building Department, while all the transport industry, socioeconomic, and other subdivisions of the party were purely functional and staffed by experienced production workers. People were recruited into the propaganda and party organizational work departments mainly on the strength of their zeal and dedication. Recruitment to our departments was on the basis of economic expertise and experience. The work itself consisted of understanding and resolving the economic and technological problems of industry. This work brought me (and my colleagues) into contact with the country's leading directors, designers, technologists, and scientists. And if you were not a dummy you could soak up information, knowledge, and assessments from the best specialists like a sponge. It is no coincidence that the process worked the other way around, too—people moved from party posts to production.

This role reversal affected me, too, when in 1969 on the recommendation of A. Kosygin and Minister A.M. Tarasov I was appointed director of the Kama Truck Plant that was under construction. It is a pity that, because of various dirty tricks, the CPSU Central Committee leadership did not let me work in that capacity. Nevertheless, Kosygin's offer was not prompted by any of my zeal on the party's behalf...

Now I shall comment on the nomenklatura-director lobby. You know about the total collapse of production in Russia. Here is an example. The only sector that has not declined is gas extraction. Largely because, just a few years ago, the sector was transformed into a new economic structure—the "Gazprom" concern. It had been prepared in advance for autonomous existence, for market conditions, and for harsh competition in the world market. That was the work of V.S. Chernomydrin, the minister and a former party official—a typical "nomenklatura man," according to the radical democrats. But here is the paradox: Chernomydrin is rescuing the reforms, the country's economy, whereas the "anti-nomenklatura" is destroying them.

[Yastrebtsov] Do you support the revival of the USSR? In that sense do you support the recent comments by Nazarbayev and Gorbachev?

[Volskiy] I would not juxtapose Nazarbayev and Gorbachev in this initiative. Because they are essentially talking about quite different things. I believe that Nazarbayev was not too pleased by this association of ideas.

Now for the nub of the matter. Of course, despite the nostalgia for the USSR—and it does exist—I am aware of the unreality of its revival now, at the present stage of history. But I am also convinced that state formations

like Russia (in its prerevolutionary form rather than its present truncated form) and the USSR do not appear by chance and do not disappear without a trace. There is an objective law governing the fact that our peoples have lived within one state for many hundreds of years. Those objective laws (geopolitical, territorial-economic, cultural, and ethnic) have not disappeared.

I was struck by the report by scientists of the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of General Genetics, who created an electronic atlas of the genetic stock of the former USSR. This is a unique work, the first of its kind in the world. The geneticists' main conclusion is that the supposed artificiality of the concept of "the Soviet people" is an untenable thesis. On the contrary, they confirmed the genetic similarity of the peoples inhabiting the USSR, their single genetic "code." The present division along national lines is just a temporary historical and geographical fluctuation.

It has now become fashionable, whether appropriate or not, to talk about an empire, the pernicious influence of the center on the former union republics, and so forth. But is the fact that we used to have a common home really a disaster? Let me take the economy, a subject with which I am familiar. In 1940 there was only one "machine building" plant in the whole of Bessarabia, and it produced spades and plows. The most important thing—the population had no technical culture, there was no technological intelligentsia, there were no skilled workers. It was the same in Lithuania, Western Belorusia, and the Transcaucasus. But the people's technical culture was molded over decades. The "de jure" declaration of independence in the majority of republics interrupted that process because it caused a migration of those who possessed those skills—the Russian-speaking population. Consequently you can see in the Baltics, Moldova, the Transcaucasus, and Central Asia processes largely similar to those that have occurred and continue to occur in some African countries after the departure of the foreign specialists. Even in Estonia, which has always had a larger section of skilled ethnic workers, there are many sectors with no specialists capable of servicing modern machinery, such as the latest navigation equipment, for example.

Thus the harm resulting from the disintegration of the USSR is not just the breakdown of economic ties but also the fact that the process of the technical progress of the peoples has been reversed and historically slowed down. Subsequent generations will have to pay for this political absurdity.

[Yastrebtsov] But what about the much-vaunted right of the nations to self-determination and the revered concept of sovereignty?

[Volskiy] Can you name even one example in modern history in which the struggle for self-determination, which as a rule is waged by revolutionary means, has brought the people happiness? It is the same everywhere: disasters, suffering, refugees, and death. World history shows that there are two paths of human development—revolution and reform. The first is accompanied by the breakdown of structures and mental attitudes and the split of society. The second path—that of reforms—produces longer-lasting and deeper results despite its outward slowness.

Guided by this perception of the logic and paths of the solution of nationality questions, we acted in Nagorno-Karabakh (I have in mind the Special Administration Committee) precisely through democratic and gradual reforms so as to create conditions for the fully autonomous independence of both the Armenian and Azeri populations of Karabakh and the realization of their aspirations regarding the development of their national culture. We acted on the basis of compromise and mutual respect with the Azeri community, not to spite it or Baku. Unfortunately, the "r-r-revolutionary" approach triumphed—the result is well known. As in other places. Look at Abkhazia, Moldova, and Yugoslavia, finally.

Generally speaking, I believe that sooner or later we will find the courage to critically analyze the concept of self-determination. Mankind is developing as a single organism and the assimilation of individual peoples and the version of ethnic boundaries is a natural and irresistible process. This thesis is clearly contentious. But it is the fruit of profound reflection. Take America. There are so many nationalities there. But one people—the Americans. The founding fathers of the USSR were clearly romantics when they divided the territory of Russia not into states and governorates but into national compartments. There used to be a theory that there would soon be a world revolution and boundaries would fade away. It did not happen.

[Yastrebtsov] Many examples confirm that industrialists and business circles are more incisive and quicker than the rest in grasping the absurdity of the breakdown of economic ties that is taking place against the backdrop of political processes. What must be done to prevent the economy from becoming a victim of policy?

[Volskiy] Policy must be changed. Or more precisely, those politicians who are deceiving the people with fairy stories about a life of plenty after they gain freedom and independence must be replaced. Of course, I do not mean a violent replacement or covert operations but purely parliamentary forms of struggle for political influence. Industrialists and businessmen must become aware of themselves as a force and must strive to organize themselves and coordinate their actions. They have enough potential to help leaders and parties come to power who are really concerned to protect the people's vital interests. Now that the euphoria of anticommunism and anti-USSRism is passing, the conditions for right-minded forces to strengthen their positions are increasing all the time.

[Yastrebtsov] Is that why the All-Russian Union "Renewal" and the "Civil Union" were created?

[Volskiy] That was one reason. But our unions' immediate task is to campaign to correct the reforms in a way that prevents the disintegration of the economy and the total collapse of production.

[Yastrebtsov] Recently, Travkin said that the "Civil Union" is an opposition force and Rutskoy and Volskiy simply do not want to admit this...

[Volskiy] Indeed, I do not like to bandy the term "opposition" about. This is because, in the average Russian mentality since the thirties, the term "opposition" has been interpreted as hostile aggressive activity. We have firmly stated that we are not in opposition to the president elected by all the people. But even B.N. Yeltsin cannot abandon this cliche and often complains that the "opposition is rearing its head." But what is wrong with that? After all, the normal democratic interpretation of the term opposition means those forces not in the government. Let Bush try to complain that the Democratic Party, the opposition to the Republicans, is rearing its head!

But that is not the point. I advocate not so much a constructive opposition to the government as constructive collaboration with it on all the problems in which it is ready to heed our opinion and listen to the position of production workers. If it does not heed us that is a different matter.

We certainly do not think that Ye.T. Gaydar is deaf to us and listens only to his own song. He is a dialectical thinker (am I not casting a slur on him by using this Marxist term?), a sober analyst with the capacity for critical evaluation and the evolution of his views. His recent new trend that things should be devolved in the regions and enterprises was argued by us a year ago. But we are pleased by this. We are pleased that our argument got through.

We are miles apart on a number of questions. For example, I did agree with Gaydar that the aim of the reform is to create a market and a class of property owners. That is only the means. The end is an efficient economy and a normal living standard for the population based on adequate recompense for their labor.

The property owner, of course, is a powerful catalyst of an efficient economy. But not the only one. There are other incentives to labor—including moral ones (take Japan's example). There must also be commitment to an inspiring national idea, which is lacking in Russia today.

There is another question on which we differ fundamentally with the government—the pace of the reform. There is constant haste, as though the reformers are unsure of their future and are afraid of not having the time to "get the job done." It is the same with the privatization campaign—even in Portugal, which was never communist, privatization took over five years. Whereas we want to do it in three to four months.

It is obvious that, in our conditions, a host of shrewd wheeler-dealers will appear who will buy up vouchers wholesale from a demented population and speculate on a gigantic scale.

The third point of divergence is the decline in production, structural restructuring, and the bankruptcy of enterprises. The government here, fortunately, is quietly ditching its monetarist illusions. The realization is dawning that a real economy is not the solution of mathematical problems in which inanimate x's and y's can always be placed outside the brackets. In real life it is millions of lives that are placed there. And any decision on the bankruptcy of an enterprise must be made in the light of not only financial factors but also social factors. Exclusively in court, as happens throughout the world, not by government functionaries.

[Yastrebtsov] Do you believe that the government can understand all the problems of the economy and make adjustments to the reforms?

[Volskiy] It is already doing so. But you should not pin everything on the government alone. The Supreme Soviet has now taken up arms against it and does not see its own responsibility for the situation. It is responsible because so far legal rights have not been given to producers to prevent the government from harming them even if it wants to. I like to cite the example of Italy, which has had 50 governments since the war but its economy has flourished. Both the private sector and the state sector.

The situation now is developing in such a way that it will be less and less dependent on the government. What we have is a rapidly developing process of regionalization and the autonomization of territories gathering taxes, resources, and rights in their own hands. There is much talk about the introduction of harsh authoritarian power. Where will it come from if the center is rapidly losing its importance and laws and decrees remain mere archive material? This prestige can only be regained either by repressions (which society will not permit any more) or by the return of respect for a rational and balanced policy. But it will not be very easy to "wash one's hands" of past absurdities. That is why I predict that the center of gravity of the reforms will be switched to the localities. Success will depend largely on whether mutual understanding is established among the territorial administration, the directors' lobby, and the workers' movement.

[Yastrebtsov] You did not mention another lever of influence that the government has—the financial one, through IMF credits...

[Volskiy] What kind of lever is that? Compare: In one year Germany invested over 100 billion German marks in the economy of the eastern Laender (the former GDR)—and still cannot help that economy or avoid acute social conflicts. What will 2 billion, 6 billion, 10 billion, or 20 billion do for Russia? No, no one is going to pick Russia up off its knees except we ourselves.

[Yastrebtsov] What do you think about the slogan of the rebirth of Russia in that case?

[Volskiy] Do you see how much has already "been done"? There has been a revival among the ladies and gentlemen of the brothel and the flop house, the courtiers' assemblies and the merchants guilds, the unemployed and the devotees of "barbarism" and "debauchery," the prisoners of the Caucasus and so forth... It only remains to proclaim the slogan "Return Russia to the level of industrial production of 1913."

But this is a bitter irony. Russia's present decline is on the conscience of those fanatics who, for the sake of their principles, are pushing society into the maelstrom of civil confrontation. In this regard the national patriots, pining for restoration, and the radical democrats, bogged down in anticommunism, are one and the same thing. Neither has any future. Russia will be saved by people with no hatred in their eyes.

[Yastrebtsov] Arkadiy Ivanovich, many people in our country and abroad are predicting that you will be prime minister...

[Volskiy] Let me say for the umpteenth time: No. I can be of more use in my present work. Therefore, let me ask the contenders for that post and other posts not to worry or be afraid. Do not be afraid but do not act stupidly, either.

Economic Issues

Government Examines Aspects of Energy Program

LD1009142692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Report by S. Suntsov; from the "Novosti" program]

[Text] Today's session of the Russian Government, chaired by Boris Yeltsin, dealt with the concept of Russia's energy policy in the new economic conditions.

[Suntsov] Examining the draft of Russia's energy program, the government did not name any specific deadlines for raising fuel prices. However, it was confirmed that prices will rise by 20-30 percent before the end of the year, while during 1993 they will be freed. The agriculture minister said these measures will require budget subsidies to be tripled, in particular for livestock produce. Viktor Chernomyrdin, who presented the draft, noted that the fall in the recovery and export of oil is continuing. The budget has a shortfall of $1 billion. The CIS states are failing to pay for oil deliveries on time. By the end of the year, the shortage in the industry will be 170 billion rubles. Unless tough measures are taken, this figure will double next year. It is necessary, the president stressed, to take a tough line on pre-payment of deliveries. On the whole, the draft of the long-term program provides for the industry to emerge from the crisis by 1995 and for development at a steady pace on the basis of self-financing.

To Free Oil Prices in 1993

OW1009154092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1330 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On September 10, the Russian Government backed the Ministry of Energy and Fuel's proposal on the liberation of prices on energy and fuel, above all on oil, oil products and coal. Although this is likely to happen in 1993, the Cabinet considered the proposal on doubling prices on oil and oil products this year. Prices on gas and electric energy, and on centralized heat supplies will remain under state control.

The Russian Government approved the concept of the Russian Federation's energy policy. This concept envisages, among other things, the drafting of federal, regional and branch programmes for the development of power engineering, as well as ways of implementing them. The ministers emphasized the importance of keeping oil exports at the current level. This year it is expected to amount to 55 million tons.

The Russian president told the Cabinet that the analysis of the projects for developing oil and gas fields in Sakhalin and Yakutia, proposed by South Korean and Japanese companies, has been delayed. He therefore asked Minister for the Fuel and Energy Complex Chernomyrdin to assume the responsibility for implementing these projects. This may mean that the Russian Government has accepted these companies' terms.

Deputy Minister on Price Hikes

LD1009185992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1123 GMT 10 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Din Inamov]

[Text] Moscow September 10 TASS—Prices for fuel will grow in Russia in the near future and a tonne of oil will cost from four to five thousand roubles, according to Viktor Chernomyrdin, deputy Russian prime minister.

"The Russian Government will decide on changing prices for energy resources in the near future. Mostly prices for oil will grow as the present-day price does not suit us", he said at a press conference devoted to a meeting of the government held on Thursday [10 September].

The new prices will still be lower than the world ones, he added.

If the prices are not raised the losses in the oil industry will total 170 billion roubles by the end of the year, Chernomyrdin said.

The postponement of President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan and South Korea will not affect credit agreements

on oil and gas with those countries. They will be signed in the near future, he added.

Union Official on Liberalizing Prices

OW1009194392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1329 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking about plans to raise prices on fuel and energy, Chairman of the Council of the Federation of Independent Russian Unions Igor Klochkov said that it was "the government's probe into public reaction". "Whatever the government's decision might be, the Federation will continue to campaign for the regulation and gradual liberalization of prices," he said.

The Federation believes that higher prices on oil will paralyze the population's purchasing power and bring industrial enterprises to a halt, said Klochkov. We have informed the government of our position on many occasions, he went on to say. However, the Cabinet has neglected our opinion, Klochkov remarked.

The Federation is drafting a programme for social-protection measures. Its main partner in doing so is President of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs Arkadiy Volskiy whose views on the economic situation the Federation shares.

Gazprom Cash Flow Hit by Nonpayments, Taxation

PM1009095392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 6 Sep 92

[Report by V. Vinogradov and A. Musikyan; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [Vinogradov] Our gas reserves now total around 50 trillion [cubic meters] of gas, ready for extraction, and that is not counting unproven reserves. Every year new deposits are commissioned to cover rising demand and declining production at older deposits.

Around 100 billion cubic meters of the total gas output go to neighboring republics of the former Union, and a further 100 billion cubic meters are exported to Western Europe. At the same time, having fulfilled its contract deliveries, the "Gazprom" concern did not receive payments totaling 90 billion rubles from consumers this year. This brought the concern to the brink of a ruble crisis. Meanwhile, the concern pays $2.5-3 billion of net profit from gas sales into the state's coffers. The sector has been authorized by a decree of the president to retain 50 percent of its hard currency revenue for development. True, this sum is immediately reduced by between $300 million and $600 million, spent annually on purchasing food and goods for the sector's workers abroad. And this includes everything from meat to fruit. And, of course, the aircraft used to fly these goods to western and northern Siberia also have to be paid for. What remains of the aforementioned 50 percent is used to buy pipes and equipment. [passage on Goncharov comments omitted]

Agreement on Troop Redeployment to Smolensk

LD1009211392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text] Russia's Defense Minister Pavel Grachev today visited Smolensk. Here with the details is our correspondent, Vladimir Vengrzhnovskiy.

[Vengrzhnovskiy] The minister did without any long drawn-out ceremonies and service rituals, although he arrived in Smolensk with a considerable retinue of generals. The purpose of the visit was to sign a final document on the redeployment in Smolensk Oblast of troops from the territory of Europe and the former republics. It is perhaps the first time in the history of the Russian state, from the time of the empire to the Union, that such a powerful department not only is occupying the territory it needs for the redeployment of units, but has been seeking agreement officially on a complex of issues connected with the Army's deployment and their juridical basis with the owners of the territory.

The Smolensk Oblast administration came up with an initiative: An integrated, long-term program was drawn up for cooperation with the Russian Army, ensuring the interests of various military departments, structures, institutions, and the oblast's working people.

At a brief news conference, Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and Valeriy Fateyev, head of the oblast administration, explained to journalists that the concept of this program arises from the real need to withdraw service formations from the countries of the CIS, Eastern Europe, and the Baltic area to precisely the territory of what has become Russia's border region.

Before questions from press representatives, Pavel Grachev expressed his opinion on the postponement of the visit to Japan by Russian President Boris Yeltsin. He said that one of the main reasons had been the unpreparedness of the sides for a visit from which the Japanese side was expecting only a solution of the problem of the South Kuril islands that was beneficial for itself. The defense minister specified a number of Russian Government proposals for solving many mutually beneficial issues: Namely, gas deliveries, ensuring the safety of shipping and air transport, the demilitarization of the territory of southern Sakhalin and the island of Hokkaido, and a number of important mutually beneficial economic and other problems.

Details of the cooperation between the Russian Army and Smolensk Oblast were discussed behind closed doors, but it has become known that the final documents on redeploying a considerable number of troops to Smolensk Oblast from the territory of Europe and former Union republics have been signed.

Commanders Authorized To Discharge Employees

LD1009160592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree on the procedure for discharging employees when restationing military units and paying allowances and compensation to them. This document gives commanders the authorization to discharge employees when withdrawing military units from the territory of other states in compliance with the established procedure for employees whose enterprises and organizations are being liquidated.

Government Endorses 1993 State Defense Order

LD1109091692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0803 GMT 11 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow September 11 TASS—Russia's Government at a closed-door session with the leaders of the military-industrial complex on Thursday [10 September] endorsed the 1993 state defence order, TASS learned from informed sources in the government on Friday.

According to the sources, the 1993 state order exceeds the 1992 order level. The move is caused by the government's attempts to support the unique scientific and intellectual level of Russian military-industrial complex and to reduce the dramatic aftermath of the overall industrial crisis. The increase of the state order will also ease conversion and permit defence enterprises manufacture high-quality consumer goods, the sources added.

Military Production Drastically Reduced

OW1009185492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1759 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In 1992 the defense industry declined not by 68%, as was officially reported, but by a significantly larger percentage. This was announced by Chairman of the Association of State Enterprises of the Moscow Region Victor Protasov, who is also director of a large defense enterprise.

According to Protasov, at one of the last sessions of the Russian Defense Ministry it was reported that the production of tanks had dropped by 100,000%, and the production of airplanes by 110,000%. Protasov pointed out that defense enterprises, trying to adjust the level of civil production on the basis of so-called dual purpose technology, are finding themselves in a difficult financial situation, since their efforts are not being supported by the government.

Government Aid For Military Conversion Needed

LD1009221792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2018 GMT 10 Sep 92

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Vadim Yegorov]

[Text] Moscow September 10 TASS—In conditions of the conversion of the defence industry facilities to civilian uses, representatives of Russia's military-industrial complex see the need for continued state financial support for defence industry enterprises, their partial privatisation and attraction of foreign investment to implement conversion programmes. Such is the gist of a memorandum adopted during the conference "Conversion and International Cooperation" which ended in Moscow on Thursday. Taking part in the conference were representatives of the Russian Government, of more than 100 defence enterprises, and of a number of foreign firms and international organisations.

Summing up the state of affairs in the Russian defence complex, Yuriy Glybin, chief of the main agency of the defence industry and of conversion at the Russian Ministry of Industry, said that in the current year the production of armaments and military equipment will make up 32 per cent of the level for 1991. The volume of research and design work in research institutes and design offices of the defence industry will make up only 60 per cent of the 1991 level. The scale of conversion is expanded. The share of civilian products in the total output of defence industry facilities will grow to 80 per cent in the current year. But in view of the disruption of ties and lowering of the budgetary allocations, the tendency for the decline of production will persist in the defence sector. The volume of products in the first quarter was 82.1 per cent as compared with the same period last year.

Regional Affairs

Chechens Oppose Russian Troops in Border Area

MK1109084792 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Sep 92 p 3

[Reports by Radik Batyrshin and Natalya Pachegina under "Situation" rubric and general headline: "Moscow Has Sent Troops to Dagestan. Chechens and Lezgins Concerned"]

[Text] Special subunits of the Russian Internal Troops (the crimson berets) have arrived in Dagestan. This was decided by the Russian president and MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] leadership because of the deterioration in the situation in certain areas of the North Caucasus. Internal troop subunits have been sent to areas suffering the greatest incidence of crime, including Dagestan.

According to reports from the Dagestan MVD, the recent growth in crime in the republic has become practically uncontrollable. Around 13,000 crimes have been committed in Dagestan in the first eight months of

1992. These include 764 incidents of robbery and looting; the number of killings involving the use of edged weapons and firearms has doubled; livestock is stolen and vehicles hijacked every day.

A Russian MVD statement stresses that the introduction of Russian MVD troops "is not connected with the restriction of the rights and freedoms of any peoples or individual citizens, or with interference in the political life of peoples."

However, the stationing of Russian MVD Internal Troops in the city of Khasavyurt (Dagestan) has generated opposition from some of the Chechens living there, who believe that this action is directed against neighboring Checheniya. Following the appearance of the Russian internal troops in the city, around 3,000 Chechens surrounded the hall of residence of a training combine where the special-purpose forces were billeted and demanded their withdrawal from the city. As a result of talks with Dagestan law-enforcement organs, it proved possible to lift the blockade of the building.

According to unofficial information, apart from anything else the Russian MVD Internal Troops subunits are to close the Dagestan- Azerbaijan border, which Azerbaijan's law-enforcement organs did a long time ago. This measure may generate serious excesses on the part of the Lezgins, whose settlements are divided by the Azerbaijani-Russian border. Certain leaders of the "Sadval" ("Unity") Lezgin ethnic movement believe that the establishment of rigid borders will force them to take up arms. Particularly inasmuch as simultaneously with the introduction of the contingent of Russian MVD troops into Dagestan, Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibei decided to locate around 105,000 refugees from Nagorno- Karabakh in the areas of Azerbaijan bordering on Dagestan inhabited mainly by Lezgins, which may give rise to new problems.

Today over 500,000 Azerbaijani Lezgins have no territorial or cultural autonomy, and the Lezgin language is not taught in Azerbaijani schools. A total of 80 percent of the unemployed in neighboring Dagestan are Lezgins. [Batyrshin ends]

[Pachegina] On the night of 5-6 September—Movladi Udugov, Chechen Republic minister of information, reported—the republic's national security service recorded the appearance of an impressive contingent of "crimson berets"—Russian Federation special-purpose internal troops—in the region of Dagestan bordering on Checheniya. The authorities of neighboring Checheniya found their numbers—around two battalions and 67 units of armored equipment—excessive for the task with which the battalion commanders said they had been tasked. As has become known, the contingent arrived from Novocherkassk in order to put down any possible "bread" riots because the Dagestan authorities intend to raise the price of bread and are expecting their compatriots to greets this unenthusiastically.

The local inhabitants—Chechens, Avartsy, and Kumyks—blocked the movement of the convoy, and, as it became increasingly obvious that the "crimson berets" were making for Checheniya, they took two division officers hostage. These were guaranteed inviolability while the local inhabitants demanded from the division command that the formation be returned immediately to its permanent stationing location. By the evening of 7 September the military had left Khasavyurt. The inhabitants promised that the hostages would be released immediately after a telegram had been received from the command reporting their arrival in Novocherkassk.

The Chechen National Guard was put on full combat alert, but, Udugov reported, there proved to be no need for it's intervention. According to Chechen Republic reports, 10 Russian Federation Internal Troops batallions have been brought to the North Caucasus on the pretext of the Abkhaz events, with the aim of "averting possible conflicts in the region," as the military's accompanying documents state. Meanwhile, the Chechen Republic's National Security Service is noting the "strange" concentration of Russian troops along the whole border with Checheniya, and in particular in North Ossetia, Stavropol Kray, and Dagestan.

MVD Forces Detain Returning Chechen Volunteers

LD1009132792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text] ITAR-TASS reports that a group of Chechen volunteers returning from Abhazia were detained in Nalchik by forces of the Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD] of Kabardino-Balkaria. After prolonged talks, the fighters surrendered their arms and ammunition. Those wounded in the fighting were given first aid. Luckily, the conflict between the fighters and the MVD forces ended peaceably last night despite the support of Chechen youth, who quickly came to Kabardino-Balkaria to help their countrymen.

Moscow Mayor Assesses Winter Food Supplies

PM1009120992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Sep 92 Evening Edition p 2

[Report by Viktor Belikov featuring comments by Moscow Mayor Yu. Luzhkov: "Difficult Fall and Winter Ahead, But Muscovites Can Survive, Mayor Yu. Luzhkov Believes"]

[Text] Yu. Luzhkov has had a conversation with a group of journalists at Moscow City Hall. At your IZVESTIYA correspondent's request the leader of the city administration talked about the Russian capital's preparations for the fall and winter.

During the cold six months that lie ahead Muscovites will have heat and light in their homes and workplaces. The necessary stocks of coal and fuel oil for thermal electric power stations [TETs] have been established earlier than last year, the city mayor noted, and adequate

stocks of gas for the operation of boilerhouses and everyday needs have been accumulated in underground storage facilities in the Moscow region.

In October the first power unit of the Northern Heat and Electric Power Station will begin operation, ensuring a reliable supply of heat and energy to Moscow's northern districts and the city of Mytishchi. The ecological balance in that area will not be disrupted.

"How is the procurement of vegetables and potatoes progressing?"

[Luzhkov] "The city's needs for cabbage, beets, and carrots for the whole fall and winter period will be fully satisfied. For the first time city people will not be enlisted under the 'quota system' for harvesting and work at the depots where crops are laid in for storage. Servicemen and student detachments will handle that work for the appropriate payment, together with volunteers sent through labor exchanges."

Supplies of potatoes from the traditional regions of Russia and Belarus, unfortunately, will meet just one-half of the necessary amount. Some 300,000 tonnes of potatoes have been received from Poland and "Gazprom" will be sending extra gas there in exchange.

The upcoming difficulties with the supply of meat and dairy produce are already apparent because of disruptions involving feed. The herd size is being reduced, which will result in a shortage of cooked and uncooked meat products. In other words, the purchase prices for these products will clearly rise even further and store prices will follow suit.

"The shortage of money in the city budget to meet the constantly rising price of agricultural output is one of the main problems which city hall and the city government are constantly tackling," Yu. Luzhkov noted. "First and foremost we are striving to protect the most vulnerable sections of the population—old people, disabled people, and children—from inflation. There are lots of people in those categories in the city—3 million. Regrettably we cannot expect a massive supply of humanitarian aid like last year, although talks with the EC Commission will go on."

N. Ossetian Official on Unification With South

LD0709203792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1219 GMT 7 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz September 7 TASS—Questions connected with a political status of South Ossetia and unification of North and South Ossetia to form a single state will be decided sooner or later. But while the socio-political situation in the region is complicated, they cannot even be put in the order of the day. Akhsarbek Galazov, the parliamentary speaker of North Ossetia, said this in his statement over the republican television on Monday. The speaker said the main thing now is to restore in South Ossetia vital economic structures, to enable 100 thousand refugees to return to their native places and to ensure that the local population abandons confrontation, embarks on peaceful constructive work. However, some representatives of the opposing sides, by their statements and unrealistic political plans, try to distract people from dealing with vital tasks, Galazov said.

The first real steps to peace and accord have been taken due to Russia's assistance and support for huge work of the quadripartite mixed commission in South Ossetia. Everything should be done to make peaceful settlement of the Ossetian-Georgian conflict irreversible. Meanwhile, according to the information of the South Ossetian parliament and communiques of the Ministry of the Interior of the North Ossetian republic, the situation in the zone of the 15- kilometre disengagement corridor controlled by battalions of Russia, Georgia and Ossetia remains calm. Over the past 24 hours observation posts have not recorded any exchanges of fire or local armed clashes on an ethnic basis. The situation remains relatively stable all over South Ossetia.

In accordance with the order of the command of the mixed peace- making forces, rearrangement of units of the Russian, Georgian and Ossetian battalions begun in the Tskhinvali zone. The Georgian and Ossestian sides include reservists into their battalions as contracts of officers and the men expire. Russian landing troops in South Ossetia will be replaced with members of motorised rifle units. The lifting of the blocade from the main route Dzhava- Tskhinval-Gori enabled more refugees to set out for their native villages in the recent days. Some 25 thousand people left North Ossetia for Tskhinvali and other populated localities. There are reports that first groups of refugees arrived from Vladikavkaz in inner districts in Georgia that have predominantly Abkhazian population.

Justice Minister on Karachay-Cherkess Situation

PM0409154092 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Sep 92 First Edition p 5

[Article by N. Fedorov, justice minister and chairman of the government Commission on the Karachay-Cherkess Soviet Socialist Republic, as part of full-page feature on situation in Karachay-Cherkessia under the general heading "Will We Forget the Frictions and Join in One United Family?": "Ethnic Conflicts—Breeding Ground for Political Adventurism"]

[Text] First and foremost, I do not want to oversimplify things. The situation in the region is far more complex than it may appear. Representatives of many nationalities live there. And all these good, strong people are not allowed to live in peace and friendship. The power-hungry—those who want to be in government even if it is only over a few hectares—stir up these people's nationalist feelings.

The countdown to the present events in this region begins in the forties. At that time whole peoples were accused of treason. The Karachay were among the persecuted. They saw it all: the abolition of the national autonomous formation, forcible expulsion from their native lands, generations doomed to suffering and humiliation. The legal basis for genocide was provided by more than 10 unconstitutional decrees and resolutions. All these have now been repealed. The 26 April 1991 Russian Federation Law "On the Rehabilitation of Repressed Peoples" operates in defense of the Karachai, and also of the numerous local Cossacks. On 3 August last year the Russian Supreme Soviet adopted a decision on the formation of the Karachay-Cherkess SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic]. But the leaders of the so-called nationwide council of the Karachay People and the "Dzhamagat" national movement demand the partition of the united Karachay-Cherkessia. The leaders of the Cossack movement have also put forward the idea of attaching to Krasnodar Kray Zelenchukskiy and Urupskiy Rayons, which are mainly inhabited by Cossacks. They have even raised the question of forming a Cossack republic.

I have been to the region several times and have often talked with the people, so I can say quite confidently: The population of Karachay-Cherkessia are committed to preserving the unity of their republic.

My observations are now confirmed by the official results of the poll of the whole people held 28 March this year. It confirmed that the peoples living on the republic's territory, including the Karachay, want a united republic. They thereby defined the form of their own territorial rehabilitation. An expression of will by the people serves as the basis for this, under Article 6 of the Law. If anyone wants to collect blood samples before the vote, let him first don a brown shirt with a swastika on it.

As for the restoration of a Karachay autonomous formation, this question was examined seriously in Moscow. There was even a draft Russian Federation Law "On the Restoration of the Karachay Autonomous Oblast and the Cherkess Autonomous Oblast Within the Russian Federation." The draft was drawn up by the State and Law Administration under the Russian president, and on its initiative was even submitted to the Russian parliament. It must be said that the document met with a negative reaction in the region. Under the document, it followed that other peoples, apart from the Karachay and Cherkess, are national minorities. That includes the Russians, who account for 42 percent of the population. The conflict that the adoption of this law could lead to is almost unimaginable.

In spring 1992 we already had available not only the results of the 28 March poll of the whole people. Plenipotentiary representatives of the united Karachay-Cherkess SSR had signed the Federation Treaty. That is why a submission was sent to the Russian president demanding that this draft, which was ill-considered to put it mildly, be revoked. On 3 June 1992 the president revoked it.

In considering the problem of national relations in Karachay-Cherkessia, I would like to focus attention on those who are promoting the idea of national separation. One of the nationalists' leaders—the unofficial "imam of Karachay," Bidzhiyev—told me at one of our meetings: "It is not necessary to know the people's opinion on whether we should live in a united republic or divide it into Karachay and Cherkessia. The people might be mistaken. It is not necessary to take their opinion into account, because apart from the people's opinion, there are the interests of the people, and the people themselves might not understand their own interests. I can formulate the interests of the Karachay people... The Karachay people are prepared to tolerate only two forms of slavery: to Allah and to a Karachay state."

There is nothing more to say. It is becoming clear who is going to present the will of Allah to the slaves. Naturally, it is those who know the people's interests, those who will dare to decide the people's fate on their behalf. Only people who put "national interests" above human rights and freedoms could have called on the Karachay, on the eve of the poll, to "arm themselves and set fire to the polling places."

There is a noteworthy coincidence of positions between extreme radical movements among the Karachay and the Cossacks. Both movements came out against the nationwide poll on the republic's future destiny. One side on the basis of the need for an autonomous Karachay republic, the other for an autonomous Cossack republic.

In passing, I would like to inform the inhabitants of Karachay-Cherkessia: On 11 August this year the decision on the registration of the statutes of the Karachay democratic organization "Dzhamagat" was annulled. It turned out that the registration had taken place in violation of the law. In particular, an interregional social association must have organizations in other Russian cities. "Dzhamagat" produced no proof of this. So legally this association no longer exists.

In general, it must be said that ethnic conflicts are a breeding ground for political adventurism of every hue. Trying to score points on the basis of ethnic strife is the last thing anyone should do.

In broad terms, it is time finally to recognize that for Russia there is not and cannot be any one, standardized model for resolving interethnic clashes. Attempts to draw up laws and formulate political decisions and assessments by theorists purely on a hypothetical basis, without studying the concrete situation in the region and thoroughly examining the problem, not only do not help, but actually do damage.

Kaliningrad Drought Forces State of Emergency

LD1009172292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0815 GMT 10 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Biryukov]

[Text] Kaliningrad September 10 TASS—Kaliningrad regional administration chief Valentin Shipov declared a state of emergency in Kaliningrad. Water intake facilities on the Pregolya River here were fully stopped.

The resolution on this score refers to the protracted drought that dried out lakes with drinking water and also to strong winds that drove salt water from the Baltics and raised from bottom everything what local pulp-and-paper and other plants dump into it. As a result, the water intake facilities were temporarily stopped and disconnected from the city water supply system.

All hospitals, schools, kindergartens and hotels are not supplied with hot water. Cold water is pumped into houses under the timetable that was not even brought to the Kaliningraders' knowledge. Also, they do not receive drinking water that was promised by the resolution.

Yet, this situation is one of the predictable rather than natural calamities: It is for several years now that the city has experienced the water shortage. When Autumn is approaching and gusting winds begin lashing the city, people recall about a waterpipe that is under construction here and the city authorities swear to put it into operation soon and even publish in the local press the terms for commissioning the facility stage-by-stage. But Autumn rains dispel the urgency of the problem and the construction cite is forgotten once again for a year—until water bodies dry out and new winds begin whipping the city.

International Affairs

Defense Ministry Seeks Fleet Chief's Resignation

OW1109140292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1311 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The commission to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet on defense and security issues and the Ukrainian Defense Ministry have demanded the immediate resignation of Admiral Igor Kasatonov from the position of commander of the Black Sea fleet. The statement on this distributed Friday [11 September] contained a harsh criticism not only of the Black Sea fleet commander, but of the Russian Defense Ministry for its activity regarding the Sevastopol naval officer training academy and the Black Sea military-naval academy in Sevastopol.

Ukraine attempted to take both under its jurisdiction. The Russian Defense Ministry called the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's step hasty. Commander-in-Chief of Russia's naval fleet, Admiral Felix Gromov has confirmed that both academies would belong to the United Forces of the CIS and be under Russia's jurisdiction.

Talks Held on Nuclear Weapons in Ukraine

LD1009145792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1405 GMT 10 Sep 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Nikolay Zaika for TASS]

[Text] Kiev, 10 Sep—Questions of the continued stationing of strategic nuclear weapons on Ukraine territory were discussed at the meeting in Kiev between Ukrainian Defense Minister Colonel General Konstantin Morozov; Air Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth countries; and Major General Viktor Koldunov, a representative of the Russian Defense Ministry.

During the meeting it was noted that Ukraine's desire to achieve the status of a nonnuclear power remained unchanged, but for the present it is implementing administrative management [administrativnoye rukovodstvo] of the nuclear forces and control [kontrol] over their use.

Ukraine's position on the problem under discussion, Col. Gen. Morozov stressed, proceeds from the position that all questions of reducing Ukraine's strategic nuclear forces should be resolved on the basis of international treaties and special agreements to ensure the security of the state and on mutually advantageous conditions.

Defense Enterprise Joins in Arms Reduction

LD0509093992 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 4 Sep 92

[Text] Another Ukrainian defense enterprise has joined in the implementation by Ukraine of the treaty on reduction and restriction of conventional arms in Europe. It is the Zhitomir plant for the repair of military machines. At the moment, a batch of military infantry carriers [boyova mashyna pikhoty] and armored personnel carriers is being dismantled there. Military monitors from the United States, Great Britain, and Spain acquainted themselves with the process of carrying out those tasks at the plant. This was reported by the press service of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry.

Zlenko on Preparing for Next UN General Assembly

OW1009205092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1408 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents A. Borodin, D. Kuznetsov and others; from "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukraine's Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko has named members of the delegation to represent his country at the next U.N. General Assembly session. The participation of Ukraine's delegation (Ukraine joined the U.N. as soon as it was founded: DP [Diplomatic Panorama] acquires qualitatively new importance now, he said at a press conference in Kiev.

The transition from confrontation to cooperation in international relations has changed the face of the world community considerably, said A. Zlenko. A real renascence of international cooperation is in evidence; the U.N. is becoming a world center for coordinating the efforts of countries and beginning to resolve global problems in practical terms, he pointed out.

According to A. Zlenko, these changes will have an impact on the character of work of Ukraine's delegation which at the upcoming session will be aimed not only at searching for mutually acceptable solutions to today's international problems, but also at actively using U.N. experience and potentialities in the interests of Ukraine's political and economic development.

Besides, Ukraine's foreign minister said, the presence of delegations from all countries at the session will be used to conduct intensive negotiations with a view to expanding and deepening Ukraine's bilateral relations with all nations. Particular attention will be paid to the countries in which Ukraine has no diplomatic missions yet.

It is believed that there will be working meetings with the U.N. Secretary General and with the Chairman of the 47th General Assembly session.

At the press conference attention was called to the problems the Ukrainian delegation would like to raise at the upcoming session. Judging by what diplomats said, during discussions on political issues it will outline Ukraine's approaches to the peaceful solution of territorial disputes and border problems, the ways to resolve ethnic conflicts, such as the conflict in Trans-Dniester and the situation in the Crimea, reinstatement of Crimean Tatars in their

rights, equitable development of ethnic minorities, environmental protection and disarmament.

Ukraine will actively seek to promote multilateral negotiations involving the U.N. and designed to settle all regional conflicts, effectively use the potentialities of the world community in the area of preventive diplomacy, preclude conflicts, strengthen the mediatory role and functions of the U.N. Secretary General.

New Corporation for Economic Ties Development

LD1009173292 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 9 Sep 92

[No video available]

[Summary] In Kiev, the Ukrainian Foreign Petrochemical Corporation [UkrNaftoZarubizhGas], a corporation for developing foreign economic relations, has been created. Ukraine is not well supplied with energy and fuel resources for the future. The question of developing Ukraine's own resources and exploiting those of neighboring countries has been raised. The corporation will be concerned with prospecting, developing, extracting, and transporting oil and gas in such countries as Russia, Iran, and countries of the Mediterranean, in order to solve the country's deficit.

Deal With France on Power Generation System

PM1009145992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Boris Konovalov: "Ukrainian Power Engineering Will Be Based on French Model"]

[Text] The monopoly electricity producer in France—the state company EDF—intends to share its experience with Ukraine.

EDF has concluded a commercial aggreement with the Ukrainian Ministry of Power Engineering and Electrification, which also owns the sadly famous Chernobyl nuclear power station, to organize an electricity system on the EDF's French model. The first stage provides for the training of specialists and the construction of training devices for power station employees.

National Affairs

Government Orders Reduction in Kiev Dairy Prices

LD0509183792 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2100 GMT 4 Sep 92

[Text] For several days dairy shops in Kiev were objects of high social tension. The situation was caused by a sharp rise of prices for dairy products. Specialists calculated that over the past four months these prices increased at least tenfold. President's representative in Kiev, Ivan Saliy, managed to stabilize the situation by ordering that beginning 5 September dairy products in Kiev be sold at old prices.

Rukh Issues Statement on Trade Unions' Strike

LD0509114592 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 4 Sep 92

[Text] The Ukraine People's Movement for Perestroyka [Rukh] has published a statement on the occasion of the aviation and railway transport workers' strike. The statement notes, in particular, that in the actions of the leadership of these trade unions, the unwillingness to agree their actions with other trade unions and with public and political organizations and the shunning of the proposed consultations gives rise to astonishment. The calling of a strike two weeks before the session of the Supreme Council beyond the subjective intentions of its participants can also be objectively regarded as peculiarly letting off steam in advance of broad political actions planned by the democratic forces for the second half of September-October in support of radical changes of the political situation in Ukraine.

Criminal World Said Pressuring Strikers

OW0409143292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1316 GMT 4 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The chairman of the Russian Independent trade union of miners Aleksander Sergeyev reported that criminal structures expressed special dissatisfaction with the strike of miners, pilots, flight controllers, and railway workers in Ukraine. Sometimes the criminal elements threatened with physical measures and forced the engine-drivers to resume the traffic. Besides the stoppage of mines disrupts the plans of barter trade with coal which is being strictly controlled by organized criminal structures. Sergeyev said that according to the information received from Ukraine the representatives of the criminal world were exerting strong pressure demanding to resume the work of the mines.

The strike in Ukraine was stopped on Thursday [3 September] evening after the demands of the strikers had been satisfied.

Defense Enterprises To Increase Consumer Goods

LD0909084192 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 7 Sep 92

[Text] Ukraine's defense enterprises have until the end of the year to increase the production of consumer goods by a third. This includes medical equipment, complex everyday equipment, and equipment for the agricultural-industrial complex. Viktor Antonov, mechanical engineering, military-industrial complex, and conversion minister, made this announcement.

Military Prosecutor Concerned at Rise in Desertion

PM1109075192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by Viktor Drozd: "Back to Mom and Home Cooking"]

[Text] Carpathian Military District Prosecutor V. Melnichuk is seriously concerned by the increase in desertion. In the general's opinion, the main reason is that, although soldiers are serving in Ukraine, they would like to carry out their duty back home. The lead in "carrying out" such wishes is firmly held by Lvov, Ternopol and Ivano-Frankovsk Oblast draftees.

Supreme Council Meets on Upcoming Session

LD0809211592 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 8 Sep 92

[Text] As is known, the sixth session of the Supreme Council of Ukraine will start on 15 September. At a sitting of the Supreme Council Presidium on 7 September, preliminary examination of certain legislative acts took place. Discussion of these acts is envisaged in the session's agenda. Among the issues concerning the social and economic situation that were discussed, special attention was paid to the state of affairs which has formed in the meat and dairy industries and on the consumer market. The Presidium proposed that the Cabinet of Ministers should examine the issue of reducing the level of trade surcharges on certain types of sausage products and milk and diary products, and should implement measures to make foodstuffs cheaper for the population. Other issues of the state life of Ukraine were also examined. Vasyl Vasylyovych Durdynets, deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, chaired the sitting.

Tatars Advised Not To Take Ukraine Citizenship

OW0709211692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1819 GMT 7 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A conference of the local organs of the national self-government of Crimean Tatars has taken palce in Simferopol. There, the deputy president of the Medjlis of the Crimean Tatar people, Refat Chubarov, appealed to Crimean Tatars not to take Ukrainian citizenship until a final decision was made on the status of the Crimean Tatar people in Ukraine and the right to resolve relations with the Ukrainian State and the Crimean Tatar National Government.

A resolution has been passed condemmning the draft law passed by the Ukrainian Supreme Council on the status of the Tatar People (nation) in Ukraine for not corresponding with international legal standards. The Crimean Tatars are requesting that the Kiev parliament thouroughly discusses the draft.

To back up this request, the conference has set September 13th as the date for demonstrations in all towns and cities and regional centres in the Crimea.

A draft made by the Mejlis views the whole of the Crimea as Crimean Tatar national territory, and not only those places where the Tatar population is concentrated most. The draft also proclaims the right of ownership of the land and resources of the Crimea as belonging exclusively to the Crimean Tatar nation.

Dniester Ukrainians Appeal for More Assistance

AU1009132492 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text] The Union of Dniester Ukrainians has sent a message to Ukraine's leadership calling upon it to protect the compatriots residing in that region and to do everything possible to restore peace and quiet there. Having expressed gratitude for the assistance rendered to tens of thousands of refugees during the combat actions, the leadership of the union expressed concern about the fact that Ukraine's Law on Citizenship has deprived those Ukrainians who reside outside of their homeland of a possibility to obtain it [Ukrainian citizenship]. The government of Ukraine has also been called upon to give assistance to those Ukrainians who wish to leave Moldova and settle in Ukraine.

Tension Seen Building in Republic

AU1109111492 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 3 Sep 92 p 2

[Article by V. Desyatnykov: "The Confrontation Is Becoming More Serious"]

[Text] Recent political events, and particularly the collisions that the organizers of the World Forum of Ukrainians did not expect, the celebration of the first anniversary of the republic's independence, and especially the concluding People's Viche [Assembly], clearly show that tension is building up in our society. The main opposition forces that side with the "Nova Ukrayina" [New Ukraine] Association and Rukh [Ukraine's People's Movement for Perestroyka] used the festivities to declare, particularly sharply, once again, the bankruptcy of the present government. In the opinion of the alternative forces, the government is unable to meet the demands of our time and rescue the economy, which is approaching, ever more rapidly, toward hyperinflation and complete collapse. The opposition has quite serious grievances about the present composition of the Supreme Council and presidential structures. One can even speak about the escalation of these grievances.

Rukh recently embarked on a new political campaign: It has been collecting signatures for holding an all-Ukrainian referendum on recalling the Supreme Council and securing the resignation of the government. The following is the point of view of O. Lavrynovych, deputy

chairman of Rukh. He says that the question of reorganizing the organs of state power has been under discussion for quite some time, but generally in a theoretical aspect. As a result of the great excitement caused by the students' hunger strike, this question has acquired a practical aspect for the first time, half a year after the Supreme Council was elected. At present, we are witnessing yet another attempt. Critics of this action generally resort to the following argument: It is impossible to change all the organs of power at one go, because it would lead to chaos and present a real danger to statehood. However, this argument is insufficiently founded. As far as executive power—the Cabinet of Ministers—is concerned, the president spoke back in January about the need to reform the government and change its composition by at least 70 percent. These words were never accompanied by deeds. In June, the Supreme Council itself assessed the government's work as unsatisfactory and appealed to the president to reshuffle the Cabinet. These facts are cited not only in order to list the shortcomings of today's executive power, but also to show that its actions have already gone beyond admissible experimentation and delays. This is obvious not only to Rukh, but also the supreme state power.

In regards to the Supreme Council, the argument "now and at once" does not look serious, because the signature campaign for a referendum to decide on the early suspension of the Supreme Council's powers, mentions, in the question on the referendum, the date for new elections—the year 1993. The legal road toward resolving this question involves an almost year long marathon. Therefore, there is nothing to fuss about.

It is clear that quite a number of the deputies like their deputy status. However, how long can Ukraine exist with a semi-amateurish supreme legislative organ? It is too dangerous for a state to have its legislative foundation created in the legislators' spare time, after regular working hours. One-half of our Council members are people who fulfill their duties on a voluntary basis or in addition to another job.

Such a situation also affects the quality of work. The Supreme Council adopts laws and decrees that it itself violates.

If they had a well developed sense of patriotism, stressed O. Lavrynovych, the deputies would have adopted a decision on the need to hold multiparty elections for Ukraine's first professional parliament—the National Assembly—and would not try to cling to the boat that is already leaving.

As you know, on 25 August, President L. Kravchuk delivered a speech on republican television in which he explained why, on 24 August, he left the rostrum during the People's Viche on the occasion of Independence Day. He said that some of the foreign citizens of Ukrainian origin who spoke at the viche called for the government's resignation and that if he had remained on the podium, it would have meant support for these calls. As we have already reported, on 26 August, the Ukrainian Information Agency stated, on the president's commission, that individual foreign participants in the viche "made an attempt to use the rostrum to disseminate narrow-minded party and group views on the present and future of the Ukrainian State. Some of them called explicitly for people to oppose the government's and Supreme Council's actions and the president's policy." The statement ended like this: "citizens of any country will be expelled from Ukraine without the right to visit it any time in the future."

Many people in Ukraine and outside were very critical about this statement. In this connection the Ukraine's People's Rukh adopted a statement that read, in particular: "The World Forum of Ukrainians has become a great event at which our compatriots from different countries were able to express their opinions on what our Ukraine has become over the short period of independence and what it must become. The Ukraine leadership should have heeded these opinions, even critical ones, analyzed them, and made use of them in its further activity to build the independent Ukrainian state. It should also have thanked them for their advice and concern about the fate of the young Ukrainian state. Instead of this, the Ukrainian Information Agency, on behalf of Ukraine's president, having juggled with notions, having assessed the criticisms as 'attempts to split the people and to sow interethnic or social hostility and discord,' and having thereby displayed elements of misinterpreting the commonly accepted principles of democracy, including the right to make critical assessments and show opposition to the official state policy, has warned all those who choose to resort to such actions that they will be expelled from Ukraine without the right to visit it in the future." Furthermore: "Ukraine's People's Rukh believes that the statement issued by the UKRINFORM agency is a violation of the principles of the United Nations Organization and of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Rukh condemns this document, because it sees in it yet another step taken by Ukraine's leadership toward restoring the totalitarianism of the times when the CPSU and the Ukrainian Communist Party were in power."

As we can see, the struggle is really becoming more serious. It is not difficult to foresee that, as the economic situation in the republic continues to deteriorate and the people become impoverished (it seems to us that this trend is inevitable under the present conditions) the confrontation will not ease. On the contrary. I think that the logic of political struggle will inevitably bring "Nova Ukrayina" [New Ukraine] and Rukh closer together, as a result of which opposition will considerably intensify. In that case, the "all-round defense" of the advocates of the national state and of all supporters of the present power structures may collapse.

Well, let us not forestall events. It is clear that the current political autumn in Ukraine will be eventful.

New School To Train Interrogators, Investigators

AU1109111392 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 3 Sep 92 p 4

[Commentary by Ivan Levchenko, chief of the Center for Public Relations at the Internal Affairs Ministry, Kharkiv]

[Text] A new institution of higher learning has been created at the Ukrainian Juridical Academy. It will train interrogators [diznavachi] and investigators [slidchi] for work in the internal affairs organs. In addition to practical training, the students will get general criminal-procedural education. Six hundred full-time and 200 external students have started studying in modern classrooms equipped with modern technology. A department for advanced studies has been created at the institute. It will prepare scientific and pedagogical cadres, starting this coming October.

Education is becoming more costly, and the institute will have to spend between 120,000 and 150,000 rubles on every student. That is why a contract system, clearly defining obligations of the institute and of the students, is being introduced there. If somebody does not want to study, he must compensate for all expenses of his education. In turn, the institute guarantees a high educational level and employment, in accordance with profession, after graduation. The contract stipulates that the students must serve in internal affairs organs for at least 10 years; the time spent on studying is added to the general work record and to the duration of service. The last year at the institute is one-year practical work as interrogators or investigators, following which, and after state examinations, the graduates are conferred the special rank of "lieutenant" and the qualification of legal expert-lawyer. The students of the institute are exempt from military service, and the universal military duty does not apply to them.

People's Deputy O. Bandurka is the director of the institute. He told us the following: The manner of selection of future students does not differ from the traditional one. However, the entrants were selected by administrations of internal affairs at oblast and city levels—they are obliged to guarantee employment for the graduates.

The new institute is enjoying high prestige: This year, 1,000 persons competed for 250 places. However, the leadership and the teachers realize that this is only the beginning.

Finally, about the teachers' potential: The Internal Affairs Ministry and its specialized department responsible for teaching at educational institutions have selected highly skilled cadres that include 62 doctors and candidates of science.

On the day of the institute's presentation, a scientific and practical conference on "The Constitution of Ukraine" was held.

Belarus

Observers Expect 'Major Shifts' in Government

OW1109011392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1634 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In analyzing Vyacheslav Kebich's recent public address (Ref. Presidential Bulletin, Sept. 9, 11992), the local observers anticipate major shifts in the top structures of the republic's offices of executive power in the near future.

According to the information available at Interfax, nearly 100 general and commissioned officers of the Belarusian armed forces are suspected of corruption, including deputy defense minister Colonel General Anatoliy Kostenko who was earlier holding the post of the CinC [commander in chief], Belarusian Military District.

In addition, numerous charges of bribe-taking and collusion with corrupt elements in the republic are brought against some of the employees in the republic's health ministry and trade sphere.

The sources close to the republic's premier inform Interfax that Vyacheslav Kebich is especially concerned with the prospects for losing popular confidence in the incumbent government, which, in turn, may negative reflect on his own fairly high political rating. "Nonetheless, the premier wants to remain upright in the eyes of the people and his own, and he quite consciously allowed some of the information relating to corruption in the upper power echelons to leak," said a high-standing Belarus government official in an interview for Interfax, asking not to identify himself.

"Kebich regards the corrupted officials as traitors of the state inter(ts and he intends to apply to them most strict punishment," said this representative of the prime minister's inner circle.

In commenting on Mr Kebich's speech at the session of the Presidium of the republic's Council of Minister, the premier's press secretary Vasiliy Dragovets noted that the head of government had long sought to "expose" some of the corrupt officials. "The premier, however, is greatly disturbed with lack of legislative grounds for bringing a law suit against the corrupt officials, and the latter are taking advantage of this," Mr Dragovets observed. He confirmed the premier's intention to come up with an initiative at the next session of the republic's parliament to reconsider the existing legislation and obtain additional authority for the executive power.

Security Council Wants Speedy Troop Withdrawal

LD1009202592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1718 GMT 10 Sep 92

[By BELINFORM correspondent Larisa Lazar for TASS]

[Text] Minsk September 10 TASS—The Belarusian Security Council demanded that the republic's government and Defence Ministry work out a schedule of a speedy withdrawal of strategic troops from the Belarusian territory and draft the corresponding agreement with Russia. The meeting of the Security Council in Minsk on Thursday [10 September] was presided over by Stanislav Shushkevich, president of the council and head of the parliament.

Questions of the military doctrine of the state have been discussed and will be submitted for parliamentary endorsement. The government and Defence Ministry have been instructed to work out in detail the economic substantiation of the plan for military construction, specifically to ensure social guarantees by the state for servicemen discharged from the forces.

'Inordinately' High Prices Create Beef Surplus

LD1009122492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text] ITAR-TASS reports that a catastrophic situation has developed in Belarus with respect to the sale of beef products. Once people had to stand in line for several hours to buy one or two kgs of meat. Now the republic's economic managers do not know what to do with the supplies they have. Now every shop displays a wide choice of beef and pork costing from 16 to 100 rubles per kg. One plan proposed selling Belarusian meat to Russian trade organizations, but the price was inordinately high—130 rubles per kg. This prevented economic managers in the two republics from striking a deal, reports BELINFORM.

Shushkevich Greets North American Convention

OW1009225992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1634 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The chairman of the Belarusian parliament, Stanislav Shushkevich, has sent a message of greetings to the 20th convention of Belarusians of North America.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Such conventions are normally organized by the Belarusian Youth Organization (USA), the Belarusian-American Association (USA), and the Belarusian Association of Canada. Members of Belarusian communities from 10 countries will be taking part in the festivities, which will this time be simultaneously held in several cities in New Jersey.

In his message, Shushkevich says: "New freedom and the current changes will result in the revival of our national self-awareness, culture, and language. However the complete revival of Belarus is still ahead, and will take a good deal of hard work to achieve." He expresses the hope that the Belarusians of America will understand and support the reforms in Belarus.

Kazakhstan

IAEA Membership Bid Spurs Information Release

LD1009220592 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0800 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Text] The Government of Kazakhstan has decided to declassify information on republican uranium reserves and on their geological and economic characteristics. It has also decided to release, for publication in the mass media and presentation to the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], the London Uranium Institute, and other international organizations, data on total amounts of uranium reserves and resources. These decisions have been made with a pragmatic purpose in mind, rather than just to satisfy natural curiosity, as they are prerequisites for IAEA membership and for obtaining uranium sales quotas.

Nazarbayev in Vanguard of 'Unified' State Idea

PM1009101992 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 9 Sep 92 p 1

[Article by A. Mursaliyev: "Nursultan, Collector of Lands"]

[Text] Meetings between heads of the CIS—like this amorphous entity itself, actually—have become ordinary and customary, and people have stopped thinking that these meetings hold out any prospects for serious changes in what used to be the USSR. Observers are devoting serious attention to the meeting of Commonwealth leaders scheduled for Bishkek at the end of September. This is linked to Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev's recent initiatives.

If all these proposals are boiled down and set out in plain language, it transpires that Nazarbayev is calling for a unified state to be revived on one-sixth of the earth's surface (if only in the form of a confederation).

It had seemed that the idea of reorganizing and recreating a unified post-Soviet area was buried once and for all by last year's August coup.

The integrationist initiatives of virtually all CIS leaders could primarily affect them as individuals. Were Russia to make such proposals, it would be immediately suspected of imperial leanings, and the leaders of the other republics would immediately brand it as having "betrayed national interests."

In this connection it is no accident that such initiatives have been made by Nursultan Nazarbayev—he is essentially a centrist and the leader of a republic that lies between the Slavic-Orthodox and Turkic-Muslim worlds. His publicly declared creed—"without left or right"—may be a product of ordinary pragmatism, if only because a leader with extreme views is hardly likely to remain in power in Kazakhstan in the near future (or, no less important, to ensure relative stability in the republic).

The ethnic and social situation in Kazakhstan is probably more complicated than in any other former Soviet republic; the population is almost 50-50 Kazakhs and Russian-speakers and is scattered throughout different socioeconomic niches (the Kazakhs are predominantly concentrated in agriculture and stockraising, while Russian-speakers are found in urban industry and virgin-land sovkhozes).

They also have their own potential "Osh"—Chimkent Oblast, which has a mixed Uzbek-Kazakh population. One word out of place, and it could go sky high! Incidentally, that is what happened in Alma-Ata in 1986.

But Nazarbayev has managed to parlay his weakness into a strength. To my mind, he and his republic have managed to play the great mediator's role, winning considerable prestige both among the three Slavic CIS states and in Central Asia.

When the leaders of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus met in the Belevezheskaya Forest at the end of last year and failed to invite the Kazakh president (whereas for a year prior to this they had formed a united front), Nazarbayev suppressed his resentment and refrained further comment. Observers were expecting a retaliatory meeting of the "Muslim" republics. The meeting was held—but, contrary to expectations, in Ashgabat rather than Alma-Ata. In Alma-Ata, Nazarbayev received as master in his own home both the Slavs and Muslims who had all proclaimed the CIS.

Kazakhstan is now mediating the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. It should not be forgotten that in last year's failed "Zheleznovodsk process," when Yeltsin and Nazarbayev tried to reconcile Baku and Yerevan, only the Kazakh president benefited, showing the entire world that it is not just Yeltsin's Moscow but Nazarbayev's Alma-Ata that is a successor to the Union.

Another case of Kazakh mediation is expected, this time between Pakistan and India on the Kashmir issue—one of the oldest conflicts in the world. At the same time, the politician "without left or right" has time to mediate between various people in Russia itself.

There can be no doubt about one thing—if Nazarbayev's initiatives are not supported in Bishkek this time (although there have already been reports that some CIS leaders are prepared to support some of Alma-Ata's proposals), then after a short time...he will again come up with similar initiatives.

Ceremony Marks Opening of Road to Tehran

LD1009175792 Tehran IRNA in English 1446 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, Sept. 10, IRNA—Road transportation links were formally established between Iran and Kazakhstan today with the departure of five trucks from the presidential palace at Alma-Ata for Tehran.

Iran's Ambassador to Alma-Ata Rasoul Islami along with some high-ranking offiials of that country attended the opening ceremony.

Islami called the opening of a "transit route" between the two countries as a main stride towards expansion of mutual ties and as "reminder of the historical Silk Road".

The Kazakh vice-premier and minister of transportation delivered speeches at the ceremony and described the transportation link as "significant" in boosting Tehran-Alma-Ata trade relations.

A team of experts from Kazakhstan is accompanying the trucks to Tehran.

Kyrgyzstan

Armed Neutrality Linchpin of Defense Doctrine

OW1109014692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1636 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] By year's end the Kyrgyz Cabinet will likely be presented with a new concept of the national armed forces. Experts are currently developing the concept on request from President Akayev. According to local observers, the President is encouraging the introduction of social guarantees for men on active duty, retired servicemen and the servicemen's families.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: A few days ago the President signed an executive order under which the servicemen's salaries were substantially raised as of last August 1 (before August 1 Kyrgyz servicemen earned two to three times less than their counterparts in the other Commonwealth republics). Under the President's order, commissioned and non-commissioned officers on active duty with the national Defense committee, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Security committee will receive higher retirement pensions. Besides, Army men will be entitled to preferential treatment in renting housing space and will pay no baggage tariffs if they change residence owing to retirement or new service assignment.

The head of the Defense and Law and Order Department in the President's Office Kubat Kozhonaliyev has told Interfax that the executive order was signed in keeping with the President's overall strategy for the armed forces. Kozhonaliyev feels the President's approach offers reliable guarantees for the republic's defense potential.

Kubat Kozhonaliyav said that at a recent meeting with the military Askar Akayev outlined the basic principles of the republic's defense doctrine. In his view, the new situation demanded that the doctrine of full neutrality be replaced with a doctrine of armed neutrality and moves to reduce the Army's numerical strength.

IF Note: By year's end Kyrgyzstan will be expected to reduce its armed forces by 40 percent, or 4,500 men.

The reform is not supposed to affect the procurement of necessary supplies to Army units and defense plants. The defense industry will keep meeting orders financed and materially backed by Russia. Kubat Kozhonaliyev said President Akayev opposed arbitrary disarmament and conversion moves.

President Akayev sees the need for easing the socially-motivated fears among the military, most of whom identify with the Russian-speaking population.

And, basic Army training will survive at high schools, as well as ROTS programs - at colleges.

Opposition Group Outlines New Draft Constitution

OW1009222192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1547 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A group of experts controlled by the democratically-oriented party Erkin Kyrgyzstan, or Independent Kyrgyzstan, is reported to have completed work on Kyrgyzstan's new constitution.

Last July the country's Parliament subjected to scathing criticism a draft presented by the constitutional commission under President Askar Akayev.

In an interview with Interfax, the leader of Erkin Kyrgyzstan Topchubek Turgonaliyev said the new draft reflected a substantial change for compromise and balanced off all the branches of national power, which, in Turgonaliyev's view, could be regarded as a guarantee against dictatorial rule.

Topchubek Turgonaliyev felt that if the new draft was adopted, presidential rule would give way to presidential and parliamentary rule and new elections would have to be held to Kyrgyzstan's Parliament.

Leaders Agree on Slavic University in Bishkek

OW1109015792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1637 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Akayev of Kyrgyzstan and the leaders of the three Slavic republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States have agreed to found a Slavic University in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek. IF [INTERFAX] Note: The University is to be founded on the eve of the Bishkek summit, September 24.

The President's adviser Leonid Levitin has stressed the new University will do much to help expand Russian-Kyrgyz relations, preserve the Russian community and

promote Russian culture in a republic with about one million Slavic-speaking residents.

Russia's willingness to offer the new University material backing and the presence of Russian guest Professors on the campus will be essential to the University's successful performance. The President's adviser wished the new University came to spread Slavic culture in Central Asia as a whole.

Tajikistan

New Leader Affirms Democratic Reform Course

OW1109002992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday [9 September] the republic celebrated Independence Day. Appealing to the public in honor of the day, acting President and Chairman of Parliament Akbarsho Iskandarov claimed Tajikistan was devoted to "the selected course of democratic reforms, the improvement of friendships with neighboring countries, inviolability of the current borders, and respect for generally accepted international standards." Appearing the same day at the opening of the worldwide forum of Tajiks, the [as received] Iskandarov stressed that Tajikistan was dedicated to the principles of international relations established by all agreements with CIS nations and primarily with Russia. In the international relations sector their priority is the development of contacts with Farsi-speaking countries—Iran and Afghanistan—and also with Turkey. Iskandarov refuted reports from much of the media about the alleged influence Islamic fundamentalists from Afghanistan and other countries of the region have on the situation in Tajikistan.

He urged people of all nationalities who had left the republic due to the difficult political circumstances to return to the republic "since Tajikistan is still their homeland." Appearing at a meeting, Muslim spiritual leader in Tajikistan Kazi Akbar Turadzhonzoda expressed his belief that the forum of Tajiks will help to consolidate the nation. In answer to a question from INTERFAX, Turadzhonzoda spoke in favor of establishing national military forces in Tajikistan which would be able to divide conflicting factions in the republic's hot points. On the whole, he believes the resignation of President Rakhman Nabiyev will have a positive effect on the situation in the republic. According to Turadzhonzoda, "such a weak-willed and unenterprising person" could not keep the situation under control.

Leninabad Requests UN Fact Finding Mission

LD1009131492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1306 GMT 10 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe September 10 TASS—New casualties were reported in southern Tajikistan on Thursday [10 September] when two conflicting groups clashed in the Kuybyshev collective farm in Kurgan-Tyubin region, according to Shakhobiddin Sharipov, head of the National Security Committee who has just returned from the region.

However, no official source can give the exact number of casualties. Eyewitnesses from the region say that the total number of casualties in the region is counted by thousands since the conflict flared up there last May.

A Russian infantry regiment stationed there can hardly remain neutral as it is often attacked in order to seize weapons. First casualties among the Russians were reported, according to Sharipov, who added that future developments can be hardly predicted.

The whereabouts of ex-President Rakhman Nabiyev are unknown. The local radio said he is in safety in his native place in Leninabad region. However, neither governmental sources, nor the security committee agreed to give any comments. "There is no danger to the life of the president and he is staying in a safe place", they said.

Authorities of Leninabad region, local political parties and major enterprises addressed an appeal to the United Nations asking for a fact-finding mission. "Taking into consideration that the situation in the republic became difficult to control and unpredictable we ask the United Nations to consider a possibility of sending to the Republic of Tajikistan a U.N. mission to study the political situation and work out proposals for its stabilisation", said the document received by TASS on Thursday.

Clashes Reported in Dushanbe, Kurgan-Tyube

LD1109100292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0931 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow September 11 TASS—Combat operations between supporters of the ousted president and the opposition are going on in the area of Dushanbe and in the Kurgan-Tyube region. On September 10 in the afternoon unidentified persons provoked clashes between various groups of population in the township of Neftyannik, near Dushanbe, well-informed military sources in Moscow told ITAR-TASS. A special militia unit (OMON), that came to the scene of the clashes, had to engage in fighting. There was loss of life as a result of the clashes.

According to the same sources, the executive committee of the Kurgan-Tyube council of people's deputies formed a national self-defence regiment. It was equipped with 1,000 Kalashnikov submachine-guns from the stocks of the civil defence committee.

Facts of the desecration of Christian graves, arson of churches and physical violence against Uzbeks and the Russian-speaking population were registered in the region. The emigration of ethnic Uzbeks and Turkmens from the Kurgan-Tyube and Kulyab regions to Uzbekistan and

Turkmenistan is growing. According to some information, the number of the emigrants reached 20,000.

Kulyab Leader Cited on Situation

PM1109110392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Sep 92 Morning Edition pp 1-2

[Report by special correspondents Vadim Belykh and Nikolay Burbyga: "Hostages of Terror"]

[Text] Kurgan-Tyube, 8 Sep—

Military Camp Still Under Siege

On 7 September, it was at last possible to remove the corpses lying by the fence of the military unit. Lieutenant Colonel Merkulov, commander of the regiment, had spent a good hour talking over the telephone with one Mirzoyev, who moved into the office of the chief of the Oblast Soviet Executive Committee after the carnage in the square on 2 September. In the end the "go-ahead" was received, and a burial team drove into the city with towels serving as white flags on its KamAZ truck.

It proved impossible to identify the bodies, for the faces had been so disfigured. Only Mamedov, a local Azeri artist, recognized his son, who had gone to get flat cakes three days previously, by his pants and shoes. Permission had to be obtained from the same Mirzoyev several more times. The new authorities refused to issue bread for refugees in Lomonosovo, where passions had already been inflamed beyond all limits. They began firing on the territory with Uzi submachine guns and sniper rifles. Panic-stricken people rushed for the concrete fence separating them from the military unit and demanded a meeting with the commander. The situation was exacerbated by the fact that the majority of the refugees are Uzbeks from the plundered settlement of Urgut. They have already declared repeatedly that they are prepared, after what happened, to make a gift of their homes and amassed property to anyone at all, just so as to get out of Tajikistan alive. However, they are not allowed to do so. Buses coming for refugees are detained, and just a few old men have ventured to return to their home district. According to eyewitness accounts, people with assault rifles, with white bandanas on their head, and with their faces covered by black kerchiefs are active in the pillaged settlement. They are dragging everything of value from the abandoned houses and loading it onto KamAZ trucks.

Thanks to the regimental commander's efforts, bread was obtained toward evening and distributed to the hungry. However, this morning, 8 September, the water was turned off in the settlement of Lomonosovo and the military unit. The threat of an epidemic hangs over thousands of people crowded together on a tiny territory, where there is already a persistent stench. The military's headache is also compounded by the desire of many of the refugees' leaders to send only women, old people, and children away from Kurgan-Tyube, while remaining themselves in Lomonosovo and continuing the armed struggle. If this idea is put into effect, there will be an operational base of insurgents on the territory under the regiment's control, and under these conditions it will be hard for Russian servicemen to maintain neutrality.

What is the Russian motorized rifle regiment in Kurgan-Tyube like? It is a formidable combat unit influencing the decision of the leaders of local groupings. About 50 officers who have not slept since the start of the bloody events, who stand at their posts with assault rifles, and who sit behind machine guns and the controls of combat hardware. True, there are approximately the same number of soldiers, but they are not issued with weapons. For the reason that they are all of local origin and long ago divided themselves up into people from the Pamirs, Kulyab, and Garm. The euphoria occasioned by the fact that on the eve of the events the regiment was at last declared Russian quickly evaporated. People have received neither assistance nor support and have been abandoned to the mercy of fate along with their families in the middle of a valley in the grip of a civil war, where each of the sides is openly preparing to storm the regiment. A few dozen Russian officers have essentially ended up the hostages of a huge quantity of combat hardware and arms. Passions are also being fueled by the fact that the people who have acceded to power blame all the recent atrocities on the intrigues of some third force. By the way, they put out the rumor that blood was actually shed by Russian paratroopers disguised as mujahidin who had been secretly infiltrated into the city. True, refugee eyewitnesses did not notice any "third force," since they easily identified among the attackers people they knew from work or studies and even simply neighbors.

On the other hand, all speak fearfully of the local bathhouse, which one of the groupings has supposedly turned into a torture chamber. No one who ends up there returns alive. The corpses brought out of there have been disfigured beyond recognition.

Shooting is still continuing in the city's streets, using all kinds of weapons. It is quite impossible to understand who is shooting at whom and why. Veritable fighting is taking place outside the city, where detachments of Kulyab people under Sangak's command are gradually retreating. Fear is being compounded by fighting in the region of a wine-growing state farm, where more than 400,000 tonnes of spirit is kept in tanks. It would only take one stray tracer bullet, and the explosion would raze neighboring villages and the city outskirts. Sabotage is still expected at the local nitrogen plant, which is not guarded by anyone at all now.

"Why He Turned His Fury Into Cruelty"

Sangak Safarov, leader of the Kulyab people's movement, was born in 1928 in a settlement by a goldfield. His father was subjected to repression in 1935. Both his younger brothers died of starvation. His elder brother was jailed in 1939. The same fate also awaited Sangak: In 1951 he stole a motor vehicle, and in 1957 there was a raid with a fatal outcome. On being released, he worked in a refreshment bar in Dushanbe's central park. He

attempted to counter a racket at the time and was again exiled for attempted murder and was kept there for long years. His time there was increased while he was there—now for organizing mass disturbances, now for aggravated assault.

"I have never stolen, raped, robbed, or killed," he told us. "I have always endeavored to prove that we are all people and must not lose our human dignity under any conditions."

The recognized leader of the Kulyab people's movement and of ex-President Nabiyev's supporters, he was dressed in a striped vest and a sports coat, with a Makarov pistol stuck in his belt. Sangak stood out clearly against the retainers surrounding him, who were all wearing "camouflage" dress.

"On 2 September we came to the square in Kurgan-Tyube to call our opponents to peace," Sangak continued. "They deceived us, and now there is a smell of terror in every home, the trees are weeping, the land is weeping, and the irrigation canal stinks from the corpses thrown into it. What is the opposition trying to achieve? To evict Kulyab people to Kulyab, Russians to Russia, and Uzbeks to Uzbekistan. To build an Islamic republic here, to dress women in a yashmak, and to return everything to the old law of the shari'a. We too are Muslims, but we do not want to live following Iran's example. What Islamic republic can there be when Russians, Germans, Ukrainians, Tatars, and Kyrgyz have lived here for many generations, they all have their own faith, and there are thousands of mixed marriages here? What now—fight each other? Burn the houses where they shared bread and salt together? We want everyone here to live together and in peace. However, these people, the opposition, under the flag of democracy and Islam—the devil himself could not make them out—have dipped their hands in blood and unleashed a terrible war here. This is not surprising, for they are being helped from Afghanistan by Hekmatyar. Here is proof."

Sangak beckoned over a tall, gray-haired man, the chief of counterintelligence. Out of a bulky file they extracted and showed us the personal documents of foreign gunmen, photographs, lists of deliveries of imported weapons, and foreign passports seized from the enemy with stamps attesting to long stays in Iran and Saudi Arabia.

"In that case it would be logical for you to turn for assistance to another Afghan, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, wouldn't it?" we asked.

"We do not want him to interfere, although he is our fellow countryman—from Kulyab. Incidentally, representatives have already visited us from there, and they are afraid that we will have the same blood as them. We do not want their support. It would be better for us to invite Russia. Although, incidentally, we hope to manage with our own resources alone."

Then the telephone rang. It was passed to Sangak, who started shouting something into it in Tajik. True, words comprehensible to us also featured.... It turned out that the caller was Akhmadov, chief of Kurgan-Tyube Oblast Internal Affairs Administration. He angered the leader of the Kulyab people by saying that armored personnel carriers of a separate special-purpose battalion and the militia were participating on the opposition's side. At the end of this "diplomatic contact" Sangak switched to pure Russian and enumerated a long list of refined oriental tortures to which he soon plans to subject the militia chief and his retainers. With that he hung up.

"All are betraying the president," the people's leader continued as though nothing had happened. "If Nabiyev does not cope and once again does not justify the people's trust, we Kulyab people will judge him. He is ours. We have saved him three times. There will not be a fourth time...."

This conversation took place at night, and after dinner the next day we learned that President Nabiyev had tried to force his way to an aircraft under cover of an armored group of several tanks and fighting vehicles. However, he was stopped, blocked, and forced to sign a request to resign.

After Nabiyev's resignation we spent all night expecting an attack on the city from Kulyab, but everything passed off relatively calmly. According to our data, the opposition, which has acceded to power, is hastily forming a national guard regiment. Its chief task is to drive the former president's supporters out of Kalininabad and to completely blockade Kulyab Oblast.

National Security Committee on Dushanbe Situation

OW1009194292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1330 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tajikistan's National Security Committee (former KGB) "fully controls the situation in Dushanbe", representative of this committee's public-relations center Said Radzhabov told IF [INTERFAX] on Thursday [10 September]. He also said that the Committee has no information about the alleged concentration of armed formations, controlled by a political force, on the approaches to the Tajik capital.

Government Chooses Tricolor as National Flag

LD1009164692 Tehran IRNA in English 0901 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text] Dushanbe, Sept. 10, IRNA—Tajikistan has opted for a tricolour as its national flag, choosing the colours red, white and green, the same combination used in the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The difference is, while the Iranian flag has the Almighty's hallowed name in the middle, the Tajik flag is topped by a crown—resembling the one supposed to be worn by Samanid kings (874-999)—with seven stars in the middle white stripe. The flag will be recognised officially once endorsed by the Tajik Supreme Council.

Yesterday, the new flag was hung horizontally from the roof of Barbad Palace where the inaugural session of the International Association of Persian Language Studies of Tajikstan was held, attended by delegates from two other Persian-speaking countries, Iran and Afghanistan.

The Pamir Republic of Tajikistan which is celebrating its first anniversary of independence from over seven decades of Soviet communist suffocation, is trying to find its real identity.

Growing pressure from Muslim parties and other groups forced President Rakhman Nabiyev, a former communist, to relinquish his post earlier this week, but the Muslim nation has yet to decide on type of system.

In the meantime Dr. Asemi, a member of the Committee for Selecting the National Emblem, said the committee has chosen a "winged lion" from ancient Iranian mythology, with a crown and seven stars above its head.

The crown is believed to have been worn by the Samanids, Iranian governors of the Abbasid Caliphs in Transoxiana, who later on exercised independent authority from their capital Bukhara (in modern Uzbekistan), patronising Islamic Arabic sciences and Persian art and literature.

The stars are considered as a symbol of prosperity and the number seven is supposedly sacred according to ancient Persian superstition.

At the moment the republic has the same red-coloured hammer and sickle communist flag, inherited from the Soviet era, with two white and green ribbons in its lower part.

Armenia

Delegate Says Rome Talks 'Came to Nothing'

NC1109113092 Yerevan SNARK in English 0843 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] Yerevan 11 Sep SNARK—Khachik Terteryan, the official of the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has informed the SNARK reporter on the situation in Rome. On the evening of 10th of September the political consultations of the Minsk group participants came to an end without any result. Armenia entrusts the Azerbaijan authorities with the responsibility for the disruption of the process of peaceful regulation of the Karabakh conflict within the CSCE. Kristian Ter-Stepanyan, the head of the Armenian delegation, has declared that the Rome meeting came to nothing after the three months discussion, the participants didn't even define the status of the Karabakh delegation. The Armenian delegation is of the opinion that the results of the meeting are closely connected with the position of the Azerbaijani authorities because they do ignore the appeal of Mario Rafaelli, the chairman of the Minsk conference, on ceasing the fire and refuse taking part in the negotiations with the Karabakh delegation. Kristian Ter-Stepanyan has underlined that other international organizations, in particular UN, should take all efforts to regulate the Karabakh problem.

Official Rejects Preliminary Truce Terms

OW1009215992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Levon Ter-Petrosyan's political adviser Zhirair Liparityan described as unacceptable the Azeri leaders' request for getting Shusha and Lachin back (the districts of Karabakh seized by Armenian armed formations - IF [INTERFAX]) and for withdrawing the Armenian expedition corps in exchange for a truce in Karabakh.

This particular preliminary term, advanced by the Azeri leader, made Elchibey's third response to Mario Raffaelli's call for a truce "unsatisfactory", as the chairman of the Rome conference called it.

Liparityan believes that if the Azeri president decides to insist on his "illegitimate" demand for a fourth time, Armenia will raise the question of official condemnation of the Azeri position during the meeting of the CSCE senior officials on September 15.

"If Azerbaijan does not give an unconditionally positive response to the call for a truce, the Rome and Minsk conferences will lose their meaning, said the president's political adviser.

'Almost All' Su-25's Reportedly 'Lost'

NC1009150392 Yerevan SNARK in English 0718 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text] Stepanakert, 10 Sep SNARK—The Azerbaijan Armed Forces lost almost all the expensive strategic bombers (Su-25). The observers mention that Azerbaijan has to use L-29 training aeroplanes transformed as bombers. The famous MiGs being given to Azerbaijan by the command of the CIS united Armed Forces are carrying out flight reconnaissance and are being fired on by the Armenian forces of self-defence.

Border Shelling, Fighting in Karabakh Reported

NC1009171392 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1400 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text] The situation on Armenia's borders does not illustrate the existence of a cease-fire. Kapan and border villages in Kapanskiy Rayon again were subjected to fierce shelling on the night of 9-10 September. One resident was killed and another injured.

Bardzravan and (Khakhag) in Sisianskiy Rayon, Bardzruni in Tavushskiy, and Agarak in Megrinskiy Rayon also were shelled.

The humanitarian corridor linking Armenia to Karabakh was shelled at night. The Nagorno-Karabakh self-defense forces now tightly control the corridor.

Reliable sources indicate that Azerbaijani reports that an alleged flow of refugees from Karabakh to Armenia is continuing are untrue.

Chartar, Sos, and Khnushinak in Martuninskiy Rayon were shelled with artillery and Grad rockets on the night of 9 September. The shelling came from the direction of the military bases in (Gachari) and Dirananlar. Four women were killed and six others were injured in Khnushinak while working in the vineyard. At the same time, more than 60 artillery shells and rockets were fired from the military bases in Agdamskiy Rayon on Norshen, Berdashen, Ashan, and Myurishen. A resident was killed in Norshen. The shelling caused damage.

A large concentration of Azerbaijani troops and military equipment is being observed at the military base near the village of Muganlu.

Gadrut and Vank in Gadrutskiy Rayon were subjected to artillery and Grad rocket shelling from Fizulinskiy Rayon on the night of 9 September. Nearly 30 rockets were fired. One resident died in Gadrut and another in Vank. The shelling also caused damage. Under the cover of shelling, a large Azerbaijani Army detachment launched an attack on Tsor. Following a brief battle, the Azerbaijanis were pushed out of the rayon's borders. The latter left seven dead on the battlefield. The Armenian side suffered no losses.

President Unites Forces in Fight Against Crime

OW0809225192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 8 Sep 92

[From "Presidential Bulletin"; item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The President's press service announced that Levon Ter-Petrosyan signed a series of decrees aimed at intensifying the fight against corruption, organized crime, and citizens' property.

The government has been given three months to prepare, and from the 1st to the 30th of November to conduct a full inventory of state property. The transfer of materials on shortages and other violations of lawful organs was ordered. The executive committee has been assigned on all levels - from villages to cities - to take up "special preventative measures to guard entrances to apartment buildings, dachas, and especially garages." The establishment of special control over the investigation of embezzlement cases was proposed.

"In connection with the rise in the professionalism of organized crime, and its tendency toward merging with state structures and responsible officials" a resolution was made to establish a single, structured division for the struggle against organized crime on the basis of corresponding divisions of the Internal Affairs Ministry and the national security service.

The new division is given the task of opposing legal violations international economic ties. The government has been assigned to find means for increasing employees' salaries coming into effect in the new division of the power departments.

The Internal Affairs Ministry and the main department of national security (successor to the republic's KGB) will report to the President each month on the discovery and disarming of criminal groups.

Diplomatic Ties Established With Kazakhstan

NC0809183192 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1530 GMT 8 Sep 92

[Text] The Armenian Foreign Ministry Press Service has reported that Armenia and Kazakhstan have established diplomatic relations.

13 Kilograms of Cocaine, Nerve Gas Confiscated

OW0809210592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1910 GMT 8 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] 13 kilograms of cocaine, syringes, and bottles of nerve gas were confiscated Tuesday by Armenian Internal Affairs Ministry organs in the Zvartnots airport in Yerevan from a Mr. Armen Tatchyan, following a flight from Vilnius to Groznyy to Yerevan. The suspect has been detained and an investigation is being conducted.

Azerbaijan

Republic Will Not Disrupt Ties With CIS

NC1009150692 Baku TURAN in English 0905 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text] Baku, 10 Sep (TURAN)—TURAN was informed that the question on principles of the relations among the Azerbaijan and the CIS would be the top item on the agenda of the next session of the Azeri parliament.

Speaker of the parliament Isa Kamberov said to TURAN correspondent that at the present time the prospect for the CIS breakdown much more meets the reality than that for the Commonwealth's long existence. Isa Kamberov thinks that the Bishkek negotiations are not going to become a turning point to stop the process.

But the speaker said: "Azerbaijan is not going to disrupt relations with the CIS. We can stand in the Commonwealth as observers or to start building of our relations after signing the proper agreement with the CIS coordinating board. The stand of a detached onlooker does not meet the long-term interests of the Azeri people."

Foreign Minister Discusses Armenian Relations

TA1009144992 Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish 1410 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text] Istanbul (AA)—It has been announced that if a decision on the withdrawal of Armenian troops from Nagorno-Karabakh is not adopted at the Rome talks, then Azerbaijan will not participate in the Minsk conference to be held within the framework of the CSCE.

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Tofik Gasymov, who is in Istanbul to attend the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers meetings, told AA that the Azerbaijani delegation at the Rome talks, which are aimed at finding a solution to the Karabakh problem, is dwelling on eliminating the effects of the Armenian aggression in Karabakh.

Gasymov said that, contrary to the views of Italian parliamentarian Mario Rafaelli, who is chairing the Rome talks, the decision regarding the withdrawal of the Armenian National Army from Nagorno-Karabakh should be adopted at these talks. Rafaelli believes that this issue should be taken up at the Minsk conference.

Gasymov said: To go to Minsk, the path to the Minsk conference should be opened. We will not go to the conference before this issue is solved.

Gasymov added: If we go to Minsk before this issue is solved then the Armenian occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh will become cancerous.

In reply to a question on what the future Azerbaijani stand will be in the event the Rome talks fail to yield any results, Gasymov said:

I told Rafaelli that there is no point in losing time with empty words and that we can forcibly remove the

Armenians. We will soon have the power to do so. We want the solution of the problem through political means, however.

Gasymov said that Turkey shares Azerbaijan's views regarding the conditions under which the Minsk conference can be attended.

Ponting out that Armenia did not abide by the agreement it signed in Alma-Ata on opening the Nakhichevan railway, Gasymov added: There is the possibility of holding another meeting with the Armenians on the issue.

Recalling that 32 km of the railway that connects Nakhichevan to Azerbaijan is in Armenian territory, Gasymov added that the Armenians are continuously destroying this section of the railway and that they are attacking the Azeris on duty on these trains.

Gasymov said the Armenians have not responded to the Azerbaijani proposal regarding the mutual recognition of one another's borders.

In reply to a question on what the status of the Armenian minority living in Nagorno-Karabakh will be in the event Azerbaijan gains full control of the region, Gasymov said the following:

The Azerbaijani Government is ready to recognize the rights of all national minorities within the framework of its laws. We can grant them their cultural rights, but the rights of the Armenian minority in Nagorno-Karabakh will not be more that the rights of other minorities living in other parts of the world. After all, Stalin had granted them many rights, and then they became unmanageable.

In reply to a question on whether Azerbaijan was concerned about the recent visit to Armenia of a high-level Turkish Foreign Ministry delegation, Gasymov said: I do not have much information about the talks. The Turkish side, however, told us that they have informed Armenian officials that bilateral relations cannot develop without the recognition of Azerbaijan. We welcome such a precondition on the part of Turkey.

Pointing out that Azerbaijan is offended by the fact that Turkey considers Nakhichevan an autonomous republic, Gasymov added that Nakhichevan is a part of Azerbaijan.

Noting that reports to the effect that Turkey is extending military aid to Azerbaijan are part of an Armenian propaganda campaign, Gasymov said: These reports are unfounded.

Army To Suspend Operations if Units Withdraw

NC1009161392 Baku TURAN in English 1300 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text] Baku, 10 Sep (TURAN)—Azerbaijan abides by the ceasefire agreement covering the Armenian-Azeri common border, signed by the official representatives of both Republics on September 3, said Leila Yunusova, chief of the information-analytical centre under the Defence Ministry of Azerbaijan to the TURAN correspondent.

L. Yunusova classified as groundless Armenian accusations of Azerbaijan of breaking the ceasefire agreement because of the Azeri military operations under way in Nagorno-Karabakh. "The signed agreement does not cover Nagorno-Karabakh," said she. L. Yunusova informed that the Azeri Army would suspend its military activity if all the Armenian units are withdrawn from the Republic's territory.

Moscow Representative on Russia's Karabakh Role

PM0909132192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 3

[Interview with Khikmet Gadzhi-zade, vice premier and official representative in Moscow, by Mikhail Kozhukhov: "'Russia Can Play a Decisive Part in the Settlement of the War in Nagorno-Karabakh'"]

[Text] [Kozhukhov] There is much debate at the moment about what Russian policy should be in the East. This is due, in particular, to the fact that the Transcaucasian republics are also changing their foreign policy signposts. How does Baku view this problem?

[Gadzhi-zade] No matter what anybody's view is, what anybody says, we essentially remain a single organism. The paradox is that public opinion in all the republics is seeking self-isolation, as if—as someone very accurately observed—we have been in the same cell for many years and have come to loathe one another so much that, on acquiring freedom, we are trying to run a mile from one another. This could lead to unfortunate consequences—worse for Baku than for Moscow.

The fears that Azerbaijan might turn toward Turkey and turn its back on Russia are not unfounded, of course. We are greatly sympathetic toward our neighbors and we are very close ethnically. But it will be decades before Azerbaijan and Russia can do without one another. For instance, Union industry had already planned for several unique petroleum machine building and petrochemical facilities to be on Azerbaijan territory. Without these products plants in Russia will come to a halt, just as our plants are coming to a halt without Russian supplies. In fact, I was appointed official representative in Moscow with the status of vice premier for the affairs of the former USSR in order to overcome the psychological barrier of alienation and preserve and strengthen these links. We are not turning our backs on anyone; we want to look everyone honestly in the eye.

We are prepared to arrange bilateral relations with Russia in all areas. We already have the text of a large framework agreement—a treaty of friendship and security. A border agreement has already been initialed that will make the border between Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation transparent. Few people believed during

the preliminary talks that this would happen... So yet another "border crisis," due to the disintegration of the USSR, has been avoided.

[Kozhukhov] They have been trying to unravel one of these problems—the war in Karabakh—in many capitals, so far without success. In your opinion, what role could Russia play in the settlement of the conflict?

[Gadzhi-zade] The agreements reached in Alma-Ata are an important step, but I personally think that Russia's efforts will be indispensable in the future. It can do a very great deal, far more than anyone else. This is becoming increasingly obvious. We even think that it no longer has the moral right to remain on the sidelines. Not to mention the fact that the future of Russia itself depends to some extent on how the Karabakh question is resolved. Some of its territory is in the Caucasus.

We believe that a solution can be found strictly in line with the CSCE principles and UN Charter, which proclaim the inviolability of borders and the right of ethnic minorities to maintain their distinctive cultures. We are prepared to discuss any rights issues with our Armenian citizens in Karabakh. Armenian schools, a higher educational establishment? Sure. Local bosses—elect them; militia—appoint locals. Freedom to cross the border—by all means. All this can be settled within the framework of a general democratic process, in accordance with international practice. We are prepared to invite any experts to Karabakh, to utilize the experience of international organizations and adopt their recommendations....

Azerbaijan and Armenia are so dependent on Russia that its voice of authority is enough to cool many heads. But this voice has not spoken, we do not hear it! Abstract appeals for peace are meaningless, since each side ascribes them to the enemy, being convinced: "We want peace, whereas they...."

What is needed is healthy conservatism. In fact, someone will have to be punished, will have to lose. It is impossible to give to everyone in equal measure.

[Kozhukhov] So Azerbaijan would be prepared to "lose"?

[Gadzhi-zade] I can talk about the position of the republic's leadership, which I represent. Indeed, if authoritative, impartial lawyers indicate to us that this is how it must be and there is no alternative, because that is how it is done the world over and it is the only way to achieve security and cooperation, we are prepared to submit.

But someone must take the responsibility and say what kind of peace it is to be, what will happen to Karabakh. The Armenian side wants Karabakh to be a separate entity. That is unacceptable to Azerbaijan. They talk to us, for example, about security guarantees for the Armenian population, saying that for this you need a republic in a confederative state. Why? Let someone explain to me why a republic can protect people against bandits crossing its border, shooting and killing people, whereas an autonomous oblast would not be able to protect them? In my view, the problem is purely psychological: winning, gaining revenge... Both sides say it is better to die, that "shame is worse than hunger and death." That will not get us anywhere.

[Kozhukhov] Mr. Gadzhi-zade, do you believe that all Russia has to do is come out in favor of peace and that would put a stop to a most intractable war?

[Gadzhi-zade] If there is a sincere desire for peace and a firm stance is taken on that, I believe that is so. I do not know whether one should write this; you decide for yourselves. But where does Nagorno-Karabakh's gasoline come from, where do the bullets and helicopters—Azerbaijan's and Armenia's—come from. Not from the United States, but from Russia. So it can say: Our lawyers have established a particular position in accordance with international law. We are asking you to go along with it or sanctions will be imposed. That is it. The next day the conversation will be quite different. Unless I am mistaken.

[Kozhukhov] In your view, why has Moscow not done this yet?

[Gadzhi-zade] Russia itself has many problems and obviously it has simply not had the time. But, then, no clear-cut approach to all nearby foreign parts has been devised. That is my feeling, although I may be wrong... The impression is that certain politicians fear the mythical Muslim threat and are trying to intimidate Russia with the prospect of a major Christian-Muslim war. The wiser approach, in my view, is that one has to think about cooperation, trust, respect... Azerbaijan pins great hopes on the course of the Russian reform. We are dependent on it, we are compelled to coordinate our steps with Russia, and we are following the same path. If market structures start operating and start easing the administrative economy out, much will change in foreign policy as well and much will be resolved.

[Kozhukhov] In many large Russian cities, Moscow, for example, mafia structures created by Azerbaijanis are strongly established. You know, of course, that this is causing problems.

[Gadzhi-zade] Every day I receive reports of crimes committed by ethnic Azerbaijanis. But the important thing is not to confuse rural workers bringing their products to Russia with drugs traffickers, bandits, and racketeers. Take my word for it, I encountered them the day after I arrived in Moscow as the official representative. They have "cornered the market and have everyone in their pocket." So go ahead and arrest these people and we will help you in whatever way we can. Let us get together and investigate the link between the Azerbaijani mafia and dishonest people in the law-enforcement organs.

But instead of that you get special militia detachments descending on markets at the weekend, making indiscriminate raids. They round up all the "blacks," put

them in a bus, without distinguishing Ossetian from Azerbaijani—going purely on hair color. But that is... fascism.

I then get people coming to me, ripping open their shirts, displaying the bruises. I take their statements to some higher body, but they are giving me the brush off too now. Fine, I can swallow my pride, but they take their grievance—against the Russian special militia—back to Azerbaijan. Now what is good about that? We must all make a desperate effort to shake off the hatred that is obscuring the vision of many people today.

Ministry Decries NKR Chief's Visit to Yerevan

NC0809152892 Baku TURAN in English 1635 GMT 4 Sep 92

[Text] Baku, 4 Sep (TURAN)—Commenting upon Armenian mass-media information on the Yerevan's visit of Georgiy Petrosyan, posing as the chairman of the so-called NKR [Nagorno-Karabakh Republic] and establishing contacts with foreign diplomatic missions in Armenia, the Azeri Foreign Ministry stressed that proclamation of any state structure within the sovereign Azerbaijan contradicts to all standarts of international law, principles of UN and CSCE, stating inviolability of state borders.

Reminding of illegality of decisions, passed by any self-styled state structure, Azeri Foreign Ministry stresed that possible contacts, established by Petrosyan with diplomatic missions in Yerevan, should be viewed only as of personal character.

Political games going round the so-called NKR with the help of which Armenia is seeking to dismember Azerbaijan, are only the attempts of the certain circles to put obstacles on the way of the deadlock-breaking, just taking a shape of late, said the Foreign Ministry of Azerbaijan.

Nakhichevan Leader Demands Villages From Armenia

NC0909185192 Istanbul TURKIYE in Turkish 3 Sep 92 p 3

[Report by Cem Kor: "Nakhichevan Is Asking Armenia To Return Nine Villages"]

[Text] Ankara—Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic has launched an initiative to recover the nine villages left to it in the Kars agreement but which have remained inside the corridor linking Azerbaijan to Nakhichevan [southern Armenia].

Arif Rahimoglu, chairman of the Azerbaijani People's Front [APF] branch in Nakhichevan, noted that in accordance with the 1921 Kars agreement, the nine villages situated between Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan were left to Nakhichevan. He added that in violation of that agreement, these villages were handed over to Armenia during Stalin's era.

Stalin's Plot

Rahimoglu indicated that they have launched an initiative to secure the return of the nine villages to Nakhichevan in accordance with that agreement and have begun shaping Turkish public opinion for this purpose.

Rahimoglu said that as long as these villages are not recovered, the corridor between Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan will remain under Armenian control.

Rahimoglu also attacked Nakhichevan leader Gaydar Aliyev and accused him of slandering and blackmailing the democratic forces in Nakhichevan. He also claimed that Nakhichevan is being run by mafia groups. He added that on orders from Moscow, Nakhichevan's leadership is serving the purpose of creating not a unitary Azerbaijani state, but a federation made up of small states.

President Forms Council for Ethnic Relations

OW1009225592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1632 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Elchibey has set up a permanent consultative council for ethnic relations which is expected to study the interests of the ethnic groups populating Azerbaijan, offer recommendations on ways of settling ethnic conflicts and coordinate the activity of public organizations of ethnic groups and ethnic minorities.

Among the Council members are representatives of the clergy, scientists, cultural figures and elders.

According to sources close to the Azeri leadership, the consultative council (for the moment it lacks a member of Armenian origin) will draft recommendations concerning the future of the Armenians living in Nagorno-Karabakh.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Elchibey stated on several occasions recently that the future status of Karabakh's Armenians should be inextricably linked with the problem of the Azeris banished from Armenia.

Envoy to Italy Arrested During Thatcher Visit

LD1009144492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1301 GMT 10 Sep 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent for TASS]

[Excerpts] Baku, 10 Sep—Rufat Agayev, the Azerbaijani ambassador to Italy, has been arrested by the republic's internal affairs bodies. He is charged with organizing acts of hooliganism outside the Azerbaijani parliament building during the visit to Baku by former British Prime

Minister Margaret Thatcher. According to unofficial information, he was also involved in currency intrigues. [passage omitted]

The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry's press center has so far made no assessment of the incident.

Government Sets New Prices for Crude Oil

LD1009102692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text] The Azerbaijan Cabinet of Ministers set a new price for raw oil. Now it is 2,197 rubles including value-added tax, 395 rubles more than the former price. All the gains will be used to raise the wages of the oil industry workers, notes AZERINFORM.

Georgia

Tripartite Talks on Abkhazia Resume

MK1009101892 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Sep 92 p 3

[Report by Tengiz Pachkoriya under the "Georgia" rubric: "Abkhaz Conflict at Negotiation Stage. Another Round of Tripartite Meetings"]

[Text] The meeting of members of the monitoring commission for the fulfillment of the final document signed in Moscow 3 September at the tripartite negotiations on a settlement to the Abkhaz conflict took place yesterday in Sukhumi, having been held over from 8 September. Georgian Premier Tengiz Sigua, Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani, and Vice Premier Alexander Kavsadze arrived in the Abkhaz capital from Tbilisi; Jaba Ioseliani, deputy chairman of the State Council and leader of the "Mhedrioni" militarized formation, arrived from Gagra. The Russian delegation, headed by Yuriy Vorobyev, first deputy chairman of the State Committee for Emergencies, arrived in Sochi 8 September but was unable to fly on to Sukhumi that same day owing to bad weather, which fact the head of the Russian delegation informed Tenghiz Sigua about by telephone. The Russian delegation comprises Russian Federation Deputy Defense Minister Georgiy Kondratyev, Deputy Security Minister Aleksandr Sofronov, and other representatives of ministries and departments. The Abkhaz Supreme Soviet, which is situated in Gudauta, has also sent its own delegation to the negotiations in Sukhumi. It comprises: parliamentary deputies Sergey Shamba, Said Tarkil, and David Pilia; Zurab Labakhua, Abkhaz Council of Ministers deputy chairman, and Colonel Viktor Kakaliya.

Tamaz Nadareishvili, first deputy chairman of the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet; Givi Lominadze, chairman of the Interim Committee for the Stabilization of the Situation in Abkhazia; and several deputies of the "Dem-Abkhazia" faction took part in the talks with the Georgian side.

Coming out at 1200 to speak to journalists, Sergey Kudinov, head of the secretariat of the commission to monitor and inspect the fulfillment of the Moscow agreements, said that some of the Russian delegation led by General Kondratyev had flown from Sochi to Gudauta to investigate the situation and resolve issues of a defense nature. Sergey Kudinov informed the journalists that the meeting is finalizing the mechanisms of the Moscow agreements. The absence of Vladislav Ardzinba, chairman of the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet, is being explained by the Abkhaz side, as Kudinov put it, as resulting from the great pressure of work on the head of parliament.

It should be noted that the present composition of the Abkhaz delegation differs from previous ones. In particular, Internal Affairs Minister Alexsandr Ankvaba is not among the representatives of the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet, but Sergey Shamba, the leader of the "Aidgylara" [as transliterated] People's Forum of Abkhazia, whom observers rate as a radically inclined political personality, has put in an appearance.

In order to make progress of the negotiations more productive special subcommissions have been set up which will be manned by representatives of the Georgian, Abkhaz, and Russian leaderships for the resolution of specific problems linked to the fulfillment of the Moscow agreements.

During a meeting recess Tengiz Kitovani stated that during the night of 8-9 September armed groups of Abkhazians supported by volunteers from the North Caucasus went on the offensive in the area of the Gumista River. According to Kitovani, there are dead and wounded on both sides. According to data available to Kitovani, the Abkhaz side is intending to wreck all the accords and enter Sukhumi by force. "If the Abkhazians initiate partisan warfare," Kitovani said, "then the young soldiers in the forward area will be replaced by Afghanistan veterans who even now are busting to join in the fighting."

The meeting's Abkhaz participants were addressed by women from the village of Nizhnyaya Eshera with a request to release several Georgian families taken hostage by the Abkhaz military. Sergey Shamba called Gudauta and gave instructions for the release of all Georgian hostages both in the Sukhumi area and in Gagra and environs.

A recess was called just when this material was being conveyed to the editorial office. Sergey Shamba did not divulge the details of the meeting to journalists, but he replied to a question concerning the commander of the Abkhaz Guards, Viktor Kakaliya. He said that the latter had been promoted to a higher position—deputy chairman of Abkhazia's State Committee for Defense, which operates in Gudauta. Shamba refrained from revealing the name of the Guards' new commander.

Control Group Makes Headway

LD1109090992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0716 GMT 11 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Sukhumi September 11 TASS—A regular meeting of the commission for control and inspection in Abkhazia ended in Sukhumi on Thursday night [11 September]. Heads of the commission representing Russia, Georgia and Abkhazia signed a protocol of the group on military issues. It was decided to begin at 10.00 on Friday the disengagement of the warring groups along the Gumista River, along with the transfer of the personnel and military hardware to specially designated areas.

A task group made up of representatives of the three parties concerned is being created for monitoring the implementation of the resolution and the observance of the ceasefire regime. Armed units which do not fulfill the command's ceasefire orders will be put out of action by a special rapid deployment group, subordinated to the commission for control and inspection in Abkhazia. The Russian part of the task group will consist of a paratrooper company, an artillery battery, two planes and six helicopters. The Georgian part will consist of a battalion with all armaments attached to it, two planes and two helicopters, and the Abkhazian part—of a special militia detachment.

Thus, the sides have managed to make some headway in the stabilisation process in Abkhazia as a result of two days of extremely difficult talks. However, head of the Abkhazian side Zurab Labakhua said at a press conference that much depended now on those who would put the agreements into effect. Tengiz Sigua, head of the Georgian delegation at the talks, pointed out that there remained serious disagreement between the conflicting sides on problems dealing with the disbandment of unofficial groups of volunteers—representatives of the Confederation of Highland Nations, as well as the date of their withdrawal from the Republic.

Today members of the commission for control and inspection in Abkhazia will personally supervise the disengagement process, will study the situation at the railways and in the conflict zone. Commissions for military issues, transport, the exchange of hostages and prisoners will also be working. The next meeting is scheduled for September 14 in Sochi.

Sigua Views Sukhumi Agreements

OW1109112192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1009 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Assessing the agreements reached in Sukhumi by the tripartite control and inspection commission, Georgia's acting Premier Tenghiz Sigua expressed hope in an interview with IF [INTERFAX] that by Monday September 14, the movement of trains and motor transport will be restored in Abkhazia.

He said that in accordance with the agreements, control over the movement of the transport from the border with Russia to Bzybi will be exercised by Georgian armed forces, from Bzybi to Esheri - by Russian units and from Esheri eastwards - again by Georgian troops.

Sigua noted that disagreements arose over the schedule of the North Caucasian volunteers' withdrawal from Abkhazia. "Georgia qualifies these people as armed mercenaries who must be disarmed without delay and driven out of Georgia. As to the Abkhazian side, he continued, it believes that the volunteers who came over to help the Abkhazian people, should be removed by a later date, not by September 15 as Tbilisi suggests, and that they should not be disarmed.

He said that the Russian delegation expressed categorical protest in this connection and stated that it will not allow any of the armed militants to reach its territory.

No agreement has been reached on this problem yet. Therefore, its discussion will continue Friday [11 September] in the city of Sochi which is in Russian territory.

State Council Address to Abkhazians

OW1009215692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian State Council has published an address to the people of Abkhazia, which, in particular, reads: "The Georgians and Abkhazians must put an end to the war and bloodshed. This necessity, which is obvious to everybody, has been confirmed by the document on the Abkhazian conflict signed during negotiations in Moscow by the heads of state of Russia and Georgia, and approved by the leadership of Abkhazia and the administrations of the republics, territories, and regions in the North Caucasus forming parts of the Russian Federation.

"Shedding each other's blood was for Georgians and Abkhazians like shedding their own blood, for all of us have been in the past, are today, and will forever be equal citizens and patriots of, and heirs to, the same single and indivisible state. It is this single and indivisible statehood which will be a guarantee for a just political system in Abkhazia.

"Any external force opposing either party in the Abkhazian conflict, even though it may do so in support of the other party, would in actual fact threaten the common age-old interests of the Georgians and Abkhazians. . . The external force that is actually involved in the present conflict is, as has become clear, pursuing its own interests, and can do nothing but harm to either Georgians or Abkhazians; we have already felt the sad consequences

of their interference, and therefore it is the number-one aim for the Georgians and Abkhazians to send the gangs who have penetrated into Georgian territory back to where they come from. . .

"An Abkhazian who is an enemy to the Georgians is an enemy to the Abkhazians too."

Russian Paratroopers Moved to Fighting Zone

OW1109112892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1013 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent reports from Gudauta that a Russian airborne unit and more than 10 armored vehicles and mine-clearing units have been moved from Gudauta to the area of combat operations in the Sukhumi direction. The Russian paratroops will act as a disengaging force during the removal of Georgian and Abkhazian armed formations to a distance of three kilometers from the river Gumista.

Member of the Abkhazian parliament Stanislav Lakob told IF that the Abkhazian side had accepted Georgia's disengagement terms "with the only purpose of terminating fire all along the confrontation line".

Abkhazian member of the tripartite commission David Pilia believes that every effort should be made to ensure the implementation of the ceasefire agreement in the Sukhumi direction, because, he said, Georgia's main strike grouping is located in this particular direction.

Commander of the Abkhazian interior regiment Vladimir Arshba told IF that clearing mines on the banks of the river Gumista will be the most difficult task. He said that in one of the sections Georgians had mined an area of 1.5 square kilometers. The mines planted by the Abkhazian forces, he said, may be cleared within three hours on the basis of the maps kept in Abkhazia's Defence Headquarters.

Railway Bridge Blown Up; Hostages Taken

OW1109113192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1011 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian Interior Ministry reports that unidentified persons blew up a 40-meter-long railway bridge near the town of Senaki last night. As a result, Georgia's inner areas have been cut from Abkhazia and from Georgia's major port of Poti, through which grain has been reaching the republic uninterruptedly in the last few days.

For its part, the press-centre of Georgia's National-Democratic Party has reported to IF [INTERFAX] that Thursday night in the West Georgian city of Zugdidi a group of gunmen, most likely followers of the ex-president Zviad Gamsahurdia, kidnapped 10 party members in the conference hall during a regional party meeting and drove them away to an unknown destination.

Gamsakhurdia Supporters Release Last Hostage

LD1009130192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1227 GMT 10 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Sep—This morning the last of the hostages, Zibert Khazaliya, Georgian deputy internal affairs minister, who was taken prisoner by terrorists, supporters of ex-President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, returned to Tbilisi. This report was faxed by the Georgian State Council's press center to ITAR-TASS.

As a result of the measures taken, David Salaridze, adviser to the chairman of the Georgian State Council; Vice Premier Aleksandr Kavsadze; Internal Affairs Minister Roman Gventsadze; the chairman of the city's authority; and staff from the information and intelligence service and from the Ministry of Internal Affairs were released.

The terrorists hid Zibert Khazaliya, like the other hostages, in Abkhazia.

Kavsadze Outlines Situation to CSCE, Others

AU1109100392 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 29 Aug 92 p 1,2

[Message sent "To the CSCE, the Center for Regulating Conflicts in Vienna, the UN Center for Human Rights in Geneva, the European Council Department for Human Rights" from Aleksandr Kavsadze, deputy prime minister, chairman of the State Committee for Interethnic Relations and the Defense of Human Rights; place and date not given]

[Text] An extremely complex situation has taken shape in Georgia. A threat to the territorial integrity of Georgia and to the safety of its citizens has arisen as a result of the actions of Abkhaz armed separatists. The violation of human rights, which previously bore a systematic character in Abkhazia, is now taking place on a massive scale.

A section of the local leadership headed by Supreme Council Chairman Vladislav Ardzinba, which had come to power as a result of a discriminatory law on elections, as early as the beginning of this year created an army unit that was illegal and, at the same time, brought up to strength only from the representatives of one nationality, the Abkhaz. Abkhazia became an arena for actions by armed bands. These bands, feeling they could act with impunity, were operating against the Georgian authorities and preparing and carrying out terrorist and diversionary acts. Georgian political figures became the target of these acts. I also, having being captured as a result of a terrorist act, spent more than five weeks on the territory of Abkhazia.

While respecting the autonomous rights of Abkhazia, Georgia's central authorities had for a long time been appealing to the local authorities to adopt measures to restore order, protect the freedom and lives of people, and halt diversionary acts carried out on lines of communications that are of vital importance for Georgia. All these appeals were ignored. At the same time, the Abkhaz section of the local Supreme Council arbitrarily suspended the Abkhaz Constitution and declared the region an independent state. A threat to the rights of the non-Abkhaz population (which constitutes 82 percent of the region's inhabitants) arose.

The Georgian State Council and Government undertook firm steps aimed at protecting Georgia's state borders and restoring order on this part of Georgian territory that resulted in the start of hostilities on the part of Abkhaz armed separatists. Furthermore, they invited and drew into the struggle against the Georgian leadership a terrorist organization operating on the territory of another country that publically declared the Georgian capital a disaster zone and is threatening to carry out terrorist acts against Georgians both in Georgia itself and beyond its borders. Terrorist detachments of the so-called Confederation of Mountain Peoples are entering onto Georgian territory and actively carrying out operations, which is resulting in enormous victims and causing suffering to people.

The Republic of Georgia State Committee for Interethnic Relations and the Defense of Human Rights states that it is essential to implement the following measures:

1. Immediately halt hostilities.
2. Free all people seized as hostages.
3. Put an end to the actions of terrorist forces on our territory.
4. Disband the anticonstitutional mononational armed formations.
5. Set new elections to the Abkhaz parliament that should be held in the near future under international control.

The Republic of Georgia State Committee for Interethnic Relations and the Defense of Human Rights states that the rights of the Abkhaz people should be made to correspond to international standards with the preservation of firm constitutional guarantees of autonomous development.

At the same time, the discrimination of the non-Abkhaz population should be excluded and equal rights granted to the native inhabitants of Abkhazia—the Georgians—and also to representatives of national minorities living in Abkhazia.

The committee will record and react to each fact of violation of human rights and is ready to cooperate closely with the corresponding UN organs and with international governmental and nongovernmental organizations. We express the hope that the experience of these organizations will be of great benefit in the regulation of the conflict. We are ready to assist in the implementation of all necessary measures within the framework of the international control mechanisms existing in the sphere of the defense of human rights.

[Signed] Aleksandr Kavsadze, deputy prime minister of Georgia, chairman of the State Committee for Interethnic Relations and the Defense of Human Rights

Shevardnadze Receives German Delegation

LD1009192392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1330 GMT 10 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi September 10 TASS—Chairman of the Georgian State Council Eduard Shevardnadze and FRG Ambassador to Russia Rolf Hopstetter, leader of a German government delegation currently visiting here, have exchanged views on military-political problems of mutual interest, as well as on prospects for cooperation in this domain. The delegation includes representatives from the Federal Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence.

Shevardnadze also met today Lieutenant-General Fedor Reut, the new commander of the Transcaucasian Military Area, who was ordered by Yeltsin's decree to transform the area promptly into a group of Russian troops in the region. According to some reports, Shevardnadze and Reut will discuss the problem of reducing Russia's military presence in the area and the complete withdrawal of Russian troops from the republic.

These meetings, well-informed sources believe, signify Georgia's military-political reorientation from Russia to Germany. Competent experts draw attention in this connection to Germany's growing political activity in Georgia after Shevardnadze's return home. The FRG was the first state to establish fully-fledged diplomatic relations with Georgia this April and to send its ambassador to Tbilisi.

New Vice Premier Named; Defense Offical Resigns

AU0909132392 Tbilisi NOVAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 17 Aug p 3

[Unattributed report under rubric "Information. Commentaries": "Appointments"]

[Excerpts] The authority of the National Front in the upper echelons of the Georgian Government has become considerably weightier, both in the literal and figurative sense. Following Roman Gotsiridze, Paata Koguashvili has been appointed as yet one more vice premier of the Cabinet of Ministers. At the same time, his successful work as chief agrarian [former chairman of the State Committee for Land Resources and Land

Reform] have been acknowledged and appreciated. Henceforth, Gotsiridze will not be so alone in the struggle with our economic dinosaurs for a free market, competition, privatization, and other progressive innovations that are hopelessly lagging behind in our country. [passage omitted]

There are shifts in the Georgian Ministry of Defense. Nodar Giorgadze has resigned as first deputy minister [of defense]. It is not clear yet whether he resigned for personal reasons or whether, as leader of the Union of Afghan Veterans, he wants to concentrate fully on the election campaign.

Latvia

Grain Harvesting Complete; Yield Drops 50%

LD0909204492 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Text] The harvesting of grain on the farms of Latvia has been completed, says Iraida Zinevica, head of operations information at the Agriculture Ministry. The harvest amounts to a little more than 825,000 tonnes of grain. That is only half as much as usually harvested in fruitful years, because a quarter of the sown grain withered. The average yield was 23 quintals of grain a hectare, but last year, where more winter crops were sown, the harvest was considerably bigger. Thus the farms in Dobele, Bauska, and Jelgava rayons have reaped as much as 30 quintals of grain a hectare in places. Therefore, this year the farmers are hurrying with winter sowing.

The most sowing of rye and winter wheat at the moment has been done in Ludza, Saldus, Daugavpils, and Jekabpils. The potato digging has also begun; the first 1,000-hectare plantations have been gathered in. In many cases the potatoes have yielded excellently, but on the whole, the drought has affected this cultivation too; therefore, the yield will not be high and prices of potatoes will be dear.

Godmanis, Businessmen Discuss Hard Currency Issue

OW1109004692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1637 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Latvian Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis has met with the republic's leading individual entrepreneurs and top executives of state-owned plants to discuss plans for a ban on domestic hard currency operations. According to confidential sources, the country's major capitalists confirmed that once the ban was introduced, they would move their basic assets to perform abroad. It was news to the Prime Minister that about a half, regardless of the specific sum, of an individual's hard currency earnings was requisitioned to the state budget. [Moscow BALTFAX in English at 1043 GMT on 10 September in a similar report adds: "The prime-minister insists on such a law considering it a step to increase the foreign currency returns of the Bank of Latvia and facilitate the regulation of the rate of the Latvian rouble."]

Analysts believe the meeting with the country's entrepreneurs will move the government to take a more cautious approach toward hard currency operations.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The Latvian Parliament has postponed decision on domestic hard currency operations.

Official Comments on Banking Policy

LD0909205592 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 8 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian central banks are roughly of the same mind in their activity, and their general banking principles are the same. This is what Enn Teimann, vice president of the Estonian Bank, said after his meeting yesterday with Einars Repse, president of the Latvian bank; vice president Ilmars Trintevics, and Kazimieras Svetkevicius, vice president of the Lithuanian bank. This has been reported by the Baltic News Service.

During their talks in Riga an Estonian-Latvian agreement was concluded on the settlement of accounts. A similar agreement will be concluded between the Estonian and Lithuanian Banks in the near future.

Enn Teimann noted that since the Latvian ruble was introduced, the Latvian Bank has by and large been dealing with the same problems as the Estonian Bank: a shortage of credit, the amount of currency in circulation seems to be insufficient, and so on. At the same time, Enn Teimann was optimistic about the Latvian ruble and called its introduction a bold step.

Referring to what his colleagues had said, Enn Teimann gave assurances that Latvia's own currency—the lat—will not be introduced yet. The Latvian banks have been attempting to stabilize currency circulation and to create preconditions for changing over to a strong currency during the present stage by using a soft interim currency. [passage omitted]

Leaders of the Baltic central banks will be meeting in Tallinn tomorrow [9 September], within the framework of the three states' government leaders.

Lithuania

Landsbergis Gives Briefing on Russian Talks

LD1009145892

[Editorial Report] Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian at 0950 GMT on 10 September carries a live relay from the Supreme Council of Lithuania, where the parliament has resumed session. It is announced that Deputy Aurimas Taurantas has been elected elder of the parliament. Vytautas Landsbergis takes the floor for a 20-minute address to the Supreme Council and the people of Lithuania, informing them of the results of the negotiations with Russia on the withdrawal of the Russian troops. He says that "currently the situation is such that the negotiations have not yet been concluded. The preparation and the signing of some documents remains in progress until all aspects of the withdrawal of the troops are included in the above agreements and decisions."

Vytautas Landsbergis continues his report on the documents that have already been signed and points out what significance they have for Lithuania at the moment.

After describing the four signed documents, Vytautas Landsbergis says: "We hope that the withdrawal of one unit or another will proceed not only without any outbursts or manifestations, but also in a rather friendly manner, so that the withdrawal will be smooth and our relations with the Russian Federation will not be dented by some undesirable incident." The Republic of Lithuania has undertaken the obligation to help ensure that the withdrawal goes smoothly.

Vytautas Landsbergis says that "the accords have been reached under rather difficult conditions, not only for us, but for the Russian president as well."

He goes on to give a detailed account of the events immediately preceding the summit when problems with the political agreement emerged at the very last minute in the Kremlin. Vytautas Landsbergis voices his opinion on the cause of these last minute problems, saying that "it was due to lack of coordination between the officials in the Russian delegation responsible for the preparation of the document, or between the ministries and the president himself."

Following this, Vytautas Landsbergis speaks about other issues that have been discussed with Gennadiy Burbulis and other Russian officials. He mentions the issue of compensation for the Lithuanian deportees still residing in Siberia and other parts of Russia. He says that Russian deportees were paid compensation, while Lithuanian deportees who were still living in Russia and who had been deported from Lithuania by the Soviet regime have been discriminated against; the law on compensation excluded them. Speaking about the importance of the accords reached in Moscow, Landsbergis says: "I think that what is of great importance to us now, especially here in this parliament, and to all the political forces in Lithuania is the evaluation and not some devaluation of what was achieved; the implementation and strengthening and not weakening of what was achieved.

"We must regard the accords as a joint achievement by the Russian and Lithuanian democratic forces and a significant step toward the normalization of the relations and cooperation between the two states. This also should be seen as an achievement of the international policy of the state of Lithuania.

"Therefore, I propose to all deputies, politicians, and journalists not to interpret these documents or the postponed signing of the document in a way that is not beneficial to Lithuania, even if some party or election policy would prompt toward this."

Landsbergis says that negotiations on economic relations at present and for the coming year are under way with Russia at a governmental level. "We realize, and constantly feel the impact of Russia's problems on Lithuania. Therefore, in our political and diplomatic work we are compelled to coordinate all these matters, such as maintaining trade and economic links with Russia and the growing and increasing independence from Russia's internal problems. We must continue to aspire to achieving mutual results beneficial to Lithuania." Following this, Landsbergis illustrates what he means by mutual results or achievements, saying that the laws that still have to be adopted by this parliament will help to implement the most pressing economic and legal reforms, to elect a Seimas that will be beneficial to all. Landsbergis concludes his report by saying that the most important remaining task to be achieved by the parliament is to adopt a new Lithuanian constitution.

Landsbergis: 15 Minute Yeltsin Talks 'Inadequate'

OW1109000392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1638 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a press conference in Vilnius yesterday, the chairman of the Lithuanian parliament, Vytautas Landsbergis, noted that his "recent meeting with Boris Yeltsin in Moscow revealed inadequate coordination of actions inside the Russian delegation".

In the opinion of Mr Landsbergis, the Russian side did not provide enough time for the controversy to be eliminated "at the top level" confining his tete-a-tete meeting with the Russian president to only 15 minutes envisaged by the protocol. In the meantime, Mr Landsbergis expressed a hope that the remaining disputable issues could be addressed at his next meeting with Boris Yeltsin set for early October.

"We have no doubts that the timetable agreement re [as received] the withdrawal of the Russian troops from Lithuania, signed by the military leaders of the two countries, will be implemented," he said, "considering that this process is carried out under a strict international supervision".

Mr Landsbergis indicated it would be unrealistic to believe that the pullout of the Russian troops from the Baltic countries could be conducted synchronously.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The problem of synchronizing the efforts for effecting the withdrawal of the Russian troops will be addressed at the next summit meeting of the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian leaders next week.

Abisala on Priorities; Rules Out 2d Term

WS1109130092 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1432 GMT 10 Sep 92

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 76]

[Text] 10 September 1992—Prime Minister Aleksandras Abisala has pointed out that the top priorities of the Government are the stabilization of the economy and the introduction of the national currency [word indistinct] along with the arrangement of the system of finances and taxes. Of paramount importance is the land

reform as well: farmers have to be helped to survive the drought. Principles of the new administrative territorial division of Lithuania and the national security will be submitted to the Parliament. With the soaring prices of the energy resources, the costs of other commodities will also rise that is why the Government is setting out to change the system of the social aid. It aims at granting allowances and compensatory benefits only to those individuals who are unable to earn their living on their own, and not to almost all, as it has been the case by now. This year is going to be very hard indeed, the Premier said, and we have to do our best to reduce the inflation and to restrict the budgetary expenditures, and only then we can expect an incipient rise of production, not merely commerce. Only by saving every cent we can hope to turn the tide. "I would be too great an optimist", the Premier noted, "if I pledged my word that the economy is going to improve so much as to enable us to take a breath, yet we have got to embark on saving everything we still possess, and I believe the spring will mark the start of rise in our living standards".

Referring to the facts that there are iron ore resources near the southern town Varena, those of salt near Pagegiai, anhydride near Prienai in the west of Lithuania and some oil in our Baltic shelf, Prime Minister noted that we have to make a more rational use of those resources we are currently exploiting, and we have to take into account the probable risk effects upon the environment before we embark upon exploitation of other natural resources.

Asked if he would stand for reelection to the Parliament, the Premier said he would not, and questioned about his personal life and leisure, he admitted that his principal pleasure now is to have a good sleep after working from half past eight in the morning up to midnight and sometimes until small hours. The Prime Minister regrets that he has got no longer strength to continue with his work on Sundays too and therefore now he usually spends Sundays fishing.

Proposal Made To End Live Parliament Broadcasts

OW1009181192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1542 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Lithuanian government has forwarded a proposal to the republic's Supreme Council to terminate all radio and tv live broadcasts from the parliament, said Lithuania's prime minister Aleksandras Abisala in an interview for the "Lietuvos aidas" republican daily paper. He did not reveal the reasons for this proposal.

Government Approves List of 'State Secrets'

WS1009130792 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1727 GMT 9 Sep 92

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 75]

[Text] 9 September 1992—The list of the state secrets will include information on the state and mobilized state resources, programmes for the activities of the state institutions under circumstances of emergency, assignations for some of the special governmental programmes such as the purchase of ammunition and the publishing of securities as well as the technology of their production. The state secrets list also includes certain data of the activities of military and state security institutions and the internal affairs system.

Before the law on state secrets is adopted, personal files of the agents of the former U.S.S.R. state security committee Lithuanian department are to be kept secret.